

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4109
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Regulation of Radiotherapy
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has shut down the radiotherapy department in various Central Government hospitals in the country including Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether as a result of the said move, cancer patients are being turned away at many hospitals and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether AERB has identified some mobile towers close to the hospitals which cause heavy radiation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) No, Sir. AERB has not shutdown any Radiotherapy Department in any of the Central Government Hospitals in the country including in Delhi. However, certain restrictions were imposed by AERB on a few Radiotherapy Departments in the country for brief periods as and when deficiencies were noticed, which includes the recent action taken in the case of Radiotherapy Department of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, a Central Government Hospital.

(b) AERB imposes certain restrictions on Radiotherapy Departments whenever deficiencies of the type (a) carrying out treatment without having qualified radiotherapy staff, (b) non-availability of calibrated measuring and monitoring instruments, (c) not meeting the performance standard/Quality Assurance (QA) of radiotherapy equipment are observed.

In November 2015, after observing that the Radiotherapy Department of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi had deviated from the safety requirement of designating Radiological Safety Officer (RSO), AERB directed not to admit new patients until it is ensured that AERB approved RSO is available. After approval of the RSO on December 11, 2015, the restriction was withdrawn.

(c) Whenever AERB observes violation of any safety requirement, restrictions are imposed on hospitals to admit any new patients for radiotherapy. However, the ongoing radiotherapy treatment of existing patients are allowed to be continued as per the clinical requirement. This is mainly because the treatment planning has already been worked out by the medical physicist at the beginning of the treatment, who also acts as an RSO.

(d) No Sir. Mobile towers do not emit ionising radiations and are out of purview of AERB, whose role is to ensure that the use of ionising radiation does not cause undue risk to the health of people and the environment.

(e) Not applicable in view of answer to (d) above.
