

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3444
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014
FREE TREATMENT TO EWS PATIENTS
Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of violations of the Delhi High Court's direction to provide free treatment to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) patients by private hospitals in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of top violators in this regard;
- (c) the number of such cases reported during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such hospitals and to ensure proper implementation of the Directions of the Hon'ble High Court in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b): The Government of National Capital Territory(NCT) of Delhi has informed that the judgment dated 22.03.2007 in WPC No. 2866/2002 was challenged by the identified private hospitals in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide SLP No. 18522/2007. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 01.09.2011 dismissed the SLP and directed the identified private hospitals to provide 10% IPD and 25% OPD completely free. Thereafter, there has been a marked reduction in the number of defaulter hospitals especially after the creation of webpage by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, GNCT of Delhi wherein the identified private hospitals have to upload data on occupancy and availability of free beds.

So far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated Hospitals are concerned, patients of EWS category are referred to designated private hospitals in Delhi as and when required.

(c): The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that 201 complaints were received during the last three years and in current year 116 complaints have been reported.

(d): In the three Central Government Hospitals sign boards are placed at strategic points in the hospital informing the general public about the provision of referral of EWS category patients to the designated private hospitals for free treatment. Also all the head of the departments and doctors working in emergency department are sensitized on this issue and have been advised to refer the patients of EWS category to the designated private hospitals as and when required with prior consultation with the authorities of that particular hospital.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that they have taken the following actions to ensure proper implementation of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court in this regard:

Monthly/quarterly reports have been sent to the land allotting agencies regarding free treatment achievement of the identified private hospitals and take appropriate action against the defaulter hospitals.

Constituted a Monitoring Committee to monitor the provisions for treatment in the identified private hospitals to economically weaker sections.

Created a webpage for monitoring free treatment to EWS category in identified private hospitals.

Appointed Government Nodal Officers for verifying the status of patients admitted by the identified hospitals.

Help desk/Special Referral Centers have been established.

Patients Welfare Officers were appointed in Government hospitals for facilitating referral of EWS patients.

Facility of online booking of free bed has been started w.e.f. 07.06.2014.

Encouraging public participation through workshop, Portal and advertisement in print and electronic media.

Letter was issued to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for cancelling the lease deed of Shanti Mukund Hospital. Letters were also issued to DDA and to Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board to cancel the lease deed of 18 societies and 01 society respectively, which have neither constructed nor are running functional hospitals on the allotted land.