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Title: Need to frame a National Palliative care policy and set up Palliative Care Centres in every district of the country.

SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL): Palliative care in India is in relatively early stage of development and consequently faces numerous problems. Some of the problems of the palliative care are lack of awareness among medical personnel/general public resulting in delay in bringing patients to palliative care units; Opiophobia amongst patients and lack of availability of opioids due to different laws in different States.

Palliative care in India is more focused on cancer care. Little attention is paid towards other disorders that often cause equivalent or worse suffering. The Indian Association of Palliative Care has proposed that India should have a national palliative care policy. If approved, such a policy could be a major influence on the State health departments.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to-

- (i) immediately frame a National Palliative Care Policy;
- (ii) set up Palliative Care Centres in every district of the country;
- (iii) make available Opioids freely to terminally ill patients; and
- (iv) set up palliative care training units in all medical colleges in India.