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Title : Regarding spread of Kidney related disease in the country.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important matter relating to kidney diseases. On 10th of March, 2011 we observed the World Kidney Day. Today kidney failure is a disease that is fast assuming alarming proportions. However, healthcare spending on disease is not keeping pace. The patients do not have access to quality renal care, mainly due to lack of infrastructure, lack of awareness about the disease and methods of prevention and financial constraints.

Unfortunately, India has very little to offer in terms of infrastructural facilities for renal care. Centres for treatment are few and are concentrated in the major towns only. For haemodialysis, it is reported that there are only about 500 dialysis centres in India with about 3000 dialysis machines. Therefore, the country still remains grounded on the purpose of providing kidney care to people who need it the most, whenever and wherever they need it.

The number of cases of chronic kidney disease in my State Kerala is growing at an alarming rate. In spite of Kerala being a State having the highest literacy rate and also the one with the state of the art medical facilities, the number of cases of chronic kidney diseases is rising rapidly. The repercussions of taking this matter lightly can be fatal as the treatment for chronic kidney disease is very expensive making it unaffordable to the common man, thus adding to the complications of the already existing problem. It is essential that the public be educated regarding the consequences of ignoring or taking diabetes lightly and the long lasting damage that it can do to the patient both physically, emotionally and financially.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN : The cost of kidney failure is very high in India. The cost of getting haemodialysis is around Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 15,000 per month, whereas for peritoneal dialysis it is around Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month.

To get a transplant done it costs around Rs. 4 lakh on an average and the monthly recurring cost may vary from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 depending upon the condition of the patient.

A normal person in India cannot afford this extremely costly treatment. The problem is compounded by the fact that kidney failure is incurable. So, these costs have to be borne till the patient passes away. This puts a perennial load on the patient and the family. This is the most important reason why only 2 to 3 per cent of kidney failure patients in India get treated.

Therefore, the Government must take all positive steps in the right direction by providing all infrastructural facilities required including Dialysis Centre, at least at the district level preferably under the NRHM scheme so as to make a marked difference to improve the present scenario especially those belonging to BPL and APL category.

MR. CHAIRMAN :

Shri P.T.Thomas may be allowed to associate with the views expressed by Shri Raghavan.

Shri P.T.Thomas, you may try to just bring your point to the notice of the House.