

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 09.11.2010
ANSWERED ON

INNOVATIVE TREATMENT MODELS TO COMBAT THREAT FROM CANCER .

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Dr. Janardhan Waghmare

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

- (a) whether researchers from across the world in a public health policy paper have stressed the need for a large scale response to combat the threat from cancer;
- (b) if so, whether the researchers have also stressed the need to employ innovative treatment models and new investment options to control cancer;
- (c) whether the deaths occurring due to cancer in India are increasing and even the cost of treatment is very high; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to fight such a dangerous disease?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR 9TH NOVEMBER, 2010

In an article published in *The Lancet* dated October 2, 2010, entitled “Expansion of cancer care and control in countries of low and middle income: a call to action” Prof. Paul Farmer and others have stressed the need for enhanced action for cancer prevention and control all over the world. The Global Task Force on Expanded Access to Cancer Care and Control in Developing Countries, an international initiative set up in 2009 has suggested large scale demonstration programmes to build infrastructure for cancer control; the need to train professionals and para medical professionals; the need for multi country negotiation for reduction of prices of essential services, drugs and vaccines; and the provision for additional financial resources for prevention, treatment and palliation of cancer. Based on the mortality data from cancer registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, in Mumbai and Chennai, the estimated number of deaths due to cancer in India for the year 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively are 4,56,526; 4,62,325; 4,71,854 and 4,79,352. The absolute number of deaths due to cancers in India seems to be increasing, largely due to enhanced longevity resulting into increased number of new cancer cases. Cost of treatment of cancers is considered to be high. The treatment of cancer is through Surgery, Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy and supportive care. In the government health care delivery system including government medical colleges and referral institutions, the modalities of treatment are either free or subsidized for the poor and needy. However, these modalities of treatment in the private sector are often costly due to high cost of infrastructure and drugs. The Government has recently launched a comprehensive National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS). For 2010-11 and 2011-12, a provision of Rs. 1230.90 crore has been made for NPCDCS out of which Rs. 731.52 crore is for Cancer component. The new programme envisages implementation in 100 districts of 21 States in India.