

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 643  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

**FIRE SAFETY IN HOSPITALS**

**643. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:  
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:  
SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH:  
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of recent fire incidents in Government Hospitals across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the casualties caused and the action taken/ proposed to be taken to check such incidents in future, State/UT-wise;
- (c) The number of hospitals in the country that fulfill fire safety measures as per National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Health Care Providers (NABH)
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to conduct safety audit of Central Hospitals, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) Whether the Government is considering to make changes in existing laws to cancel the licenses of those hospitals who do not fulfill fire safety measure, if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a) & (b): Public Health and hospitals' is a State subject and it is the primary responsibility of State/UT Governments to ensure adherence of healthcare facilities to safety norms including fire safety. The Central Government is not aware of any fire incident in a government hospital in recent past. However, it has taken note of recent fire incident at SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar. A copy of factual report received from State Government of Odisha is at Annexure

The Ministry has issued advisory to all States/UTs on 21st October, 2016 and also circulated provisions on fire safety in the Unified Building Bye laws 2016, Delhi and National Building Code for guidance/reference.

(c): No such data is maintained in the Ministry However, as per information available on the NABH Website, 422 Hospitals are presently accredited with NABH.

(d) & (e): The Ministry has instructed all Central Government hospitals/Institutes to obtain NoC from fire department in a time bound manner where not available. A Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prepare guidelines on fire safety and its implementation in hospital buildings. The Committee has advised Safdarjung Hospital, Dr RML Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated hospitals to consult Central Building Research Institute , Roorkee regarding fire safety audit.

**Fire Incident at SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar**

A fire broke out at around 7.30 p.m. in SUM Hospital and Medical College, Bhubaneswar on 17.10.2016. The cause believably is electrical short circuit. However the inquiry is on. The initial spark is said to have been caused in a space between Dialysis unit and Medicine ICU. The 1000 bedded hospital had the occupancy of more than 600 at the time of accident.

Immediately after hearing the news, 19 Government Ambulances were deployed to the hospital to evacuate the patients. Private Hospital ambulances were also mobilized for the purpose. In all, 138 people were shifted from SUM Hospital to various private and Government Hospitals in Bhubaneswar and SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack. (Status at Appendix). The rescue, evacuation and inter- facility transfer of the evacuated patients were supervised by the Commissioner, Police and Collector of the District. Senior Fire Officers were present at the site and monitoring the dousing of fire and bringing out of the trapped patients

Of those shifted, 14 were brought dead to Capital Hospital and 5 were brought dead to AMRI Hospital, Bhubaneswar. One more person died at AIIMS early morning. At Capital Hospital and other hospitals, Government officers and additional doctors were deployed to ensure proper treatment. Hon'ble Chief Minister announced setting up of an enquiry committee under the Chairmanship of Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Central Division, Cuttack and also announced the treatment would be free for all patients. He visited the patients at Capital Hospital at night and at AIIMS and AMRI in the morning

Post Mortem of the 19 deceased (14 from Capital Hospital and 5 from AMRI Hospital) were done at Capital Hospital in the intervening night of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and all the deceased and their families were provided free transport to their home districts as well as to Swargadwar at Puri. All the dead bodies were handed over to the families and next of kin by 5.30 in the morning. A Control Room has been set up to coordinate the treatment being provided to the re-located patients in different hospitals.

State Government is bearing the treatment cost of all patients evacuated from SUM hospital due to the fire incident. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also announced ex-gratia of Rs. 5 lakhs for the families of each deceased.

FIRs against IMR & SUM hospital have been filed by the Health Department and the Fire services establishment. Appropriate action has been initiated against the hospital authorities as per the Clinical Establishments Act. So far 5 persons have been arrested in connection with the case.

Out of the 138 evacuated patients, the total death till date is 26. 28 are under treatment and 84 have been discharged.

| Status of the patients moved from SUM Hospital |                  |                   |              |            |                  |                    |          |   |                   |                     |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Sl. No.  | Name of Hospital | Patients received | Brought dead | Total      | Died at Hospital | Patient discharged | LAMA     | Received treatment out of initial admission | Shifted into /Out | Now under treatment |
| 1  | 2                | 3                 | 4            | 5          | 6                | 7                  | 8        | 9=5-(4+6+7+8)                               | 10                | 11                  |
| 1  | AMRI             | 34                | 5            | 39         | 2                | 19                 | 4        | 9   | (+) 2             | 11                  |
| 2  | Kalinga          | 4                 | 0            | 4          | 0                | 2                  | 0        | 2   | 0                 | 2                   |
| 3  | ADITYA CARE      | 4                 | 0            | 4          | 0                | 2                  | 0        | 2   | 0                 | 2                   |
| 4  | KIMS             | 14                | 0            | 14         | 0                | 11                 | 0        | 3   | 0                 | 3                   |
| 5  | HI-TECH          | 8                 | 0            | 8          | 0                | 7                  | 0        | 1   | 0                 | 1                   |
| 6  | APOLLO           | 6                 | 0            | 6          | 2                | 3                  | 0        | 1   | (+)4              | 5                   |
| 7  | AIIMS            | 30                | 0            | 30         | 2                | 24                 | 0        | 4   | (-)1              | 3                   |
| 8  | Capital Hospital | 6                 | 14           | 20         | 0                | 2                  | 0        | 4   | (-)4              | 0                   |
| 9  | SCB ,Cuttack     | 6                 | 0            | 6          | 1                | 3                  | 2        | 0   | (+) 1             | 1                   |
| 10   | Vivekananda      | 5                 | 0            | 5          | 0                | 5                  | 0        | 0   | 0                 | 0                   |
| 11   | Nilachala        | 1                 | 0            | 1          | 0                | 0                  | 0        | 1   | (-)1              | 0                   |
| 12   | SPARSH           | 1                 | 0            | 1          | 0                | 0                  | 0        | 1   | (-)1              | 0                   |
|  | <b>Total</b>     | <b>119</b>        | <b>19</b>    | <b>138</b> | <b>7</b>         | <b>78</b>          | <b>6</b> | <b>28</b>                                   | <b>0</b>          | <b>28</b>           |
|  |                  |                   |              |            |                  |                    |          |   |                   |                     |
|  |                  |                   |              |            |                  |                    |          |   |                   |                     |

**Total Death - 26**