

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1157
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2018**

IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR CANCER TREATMENT

1157. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has introduced immunotherapy, which has potential to change the standard of care of many cancer types;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the immunotherapy for cancer treatment is available in all the States across the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d): As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR), Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that boosts body's defenses to fight cancer. Recently, few cancers such as brain, childhood, colorectal, etc have shown potential of treatment with immunotherapy.

The cancer is treated by Surgery, Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy and Palliative care. The use of Immune system to treat cancer is one of the modality. New drugs including immunotherapy agents are not yet as widely used as above mentioned modalities. Any new drug including immunotherapy is to be approved by Drug Controller General of India before it is permitted for use and marketing in this regard.

Health is a State subject and there is no provision of introducing any drug including immunotherapy under the National Programme for Prevention and control of Cancer, Diabetes, CVD & Stroke (NPCDCS). The data regarding different types of therapies available in different hospitals across States is not kept centrally. As informed by State Government of Andhra Pradesh, use of immunotherapy to treat immunological disorders is in practice in public sector hospitals of Andhra Pradesh.

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