

Regarding Need to increase financial allocation and streamline health assistance schemes for affordable treatment of cancer patients in government hospitals of Kerala- Laid

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): In Kannur district of Kerala, hundreds of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are struggling every month to afford cancer treatment, especially radiation and chemotherapy. With Government-run healthcare schemes either non-functional or extremely difficult to access due to bureaucratic hurdles and eligibility issues, poor patients are being forced to turn to private charities and NGOs for help. These non-governmental sources of aid are, however, limited in reach and unable to meet the growing demand. The cost of cancer treatment, especially for radiation and chemotherapy, is extremely high, and without consistent financial support, many patients are either delaying or discontinuing treatment, which poses a severe threat to their lives. The existing Government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and state-specific health schemes are either not fully implemented or lack adequate funding and infrastructure in the region. Further, there is insufficient awareness, support mechanisms, and navigation assistance for patients to apply and benefit from these schemes. This growing crisis demands immediate intervention by the Government, including increased financial allocation, streamlining of health assistance schemes, and the establishment of functional cancer support units within Government hospitals in Kannur and surrounding districts in Kerala.