

Regarding establishment of Proton Beam Therapy Unit at Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata.-laid

DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): I would like to bring to the urgent attention of the Government the critical need for establishing a Proton Beam Therapy Unit at the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI), Kolkata. Proton Beam Therapy is a cutting-edge cancer treatment modality that offers significant advantages over conventional X-ray-based radiotherapy. Unlike photons, protons can be controlled to stop precisely at the tumor site, minimizing radiation exposure to surrounding healthy tissues. This makes it especially beneficial for pediatric cancers, brain tumors, and head-and-neck cancers?conditions where conventional therapy can cause serious collateral damage. Studies show that Proton Therapy reduces radiation to healthy tissues by up to 60% and lowers the risk of secondary cancers in children by up to 30%. International guidelines by ASTRO recommend its use in a wide range of cancers, including ocular, spinal, hepatocellular, and CNS tumors. Currently, Eastern India lacks a single Proton Therapy unit. Establishing such a facility at CNCI, will not only reduce the burden on existing centers in other parts of India but also make this technology accessible to lakhs of patients across Eastern and North-Eastern states. I urge the Hon?ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare and the Government to immediately take steps to establish a Proton Beam Therapy Unit at CNCI.