

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:149  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003  
CONSTITUTION OF HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE  
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether in pursuance of the High Court order the Government had constituted a high powered Committee in October last year to go into the state of affairs in certain Government hospitals in the capital;
- (b) if so, whether the high powered Committee has submitted its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the salient features of the recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government for the implementation of the recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 149 FOR 30.7.2003

No High Powered Committee was constituted by the Government in October last year to go into the state of affairs of certain Government Hospitals in the capital. However, during the proceedings in CWP No.2187/1996, the Hon`ble High Court of Delhi in its order on 10.10.2002, had appointed a high powered committee of the following persons to check the condition of the Burn Wards of four hospitals, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital: -

1. Shri Mukul Rohtagi, Additional Solicitor General
2. Shri S.K. Naik, Health Secretary, Government of India (Convenor)
3. Director General, Armed Forces, Medical Corps, AHQ, South Block
4. Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health
5. Dr. J.L. Gupta, retired Head of the Department of Burns Ward, Safdarjung Hospital
6. Shri S.P. Aggarwal, Health Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi
7. Smt. Meera Bhatia, Advocate
8. Shri Ashok Aggarwal, Advocate

The Hon`ble Court directed the Committee to submit its report on or before 31.10.2002 specifying the deficiencies existing in the present set up and the ways and means to improve the burn wards.

The Committee submitted its report to the Hon`ble Court on 31.10.2002. In the report, the Committee apart from pointing out certain deficiencies in equipment, etc made certain recommendations/suggestions for further improvement. Some of the main recommendations/suggestions made by the High Powered Committee are given in Annexure.

The Hon`ble High Court, while disposing of the Petition in its judgement 30.4.2003, has directed the Union of India and the Government of NCT of Delhi to comply with the recommendations made by the High Powered Committee by the end of August, 2003 and to send the compliance report to the Counsel for the Petitioner.

In keeping with the above judgement, all concerned have been directed to comply with the Court order within the stipulated time limit positively.

**ANNEXURE**

**SOME OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS OF THE HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE REGARDING G POLICY MATTERS**

1. As far as the general maintenance is concerned, there should be better coordination between CPWD and Hospital Administration for better maintenance of electrical and civil works in the hospitals. There is also scope for improvement in the cleanliness in all the

hospitals particularly because of heavy rush of patients and visitors.

2. As far as the Burns Wards in the hospitals are concerned, the air curtain and dust catching doormats may be used at the entry points of ICUs and Dressing Stations. The standard air circulation and temperature monitoring should be done regularly and records maintained. The quality of linen, particularly blankets and sheets in all the hospitals needs improvement.

3. In view of the non-availability of Burns & Plastic Specialists, short intensive training could be given to general surgeons who could provide burn care on a rotatory basis under the Surgery Department. The DNB and MCH students, after qualifying the examination, may be utilized in Burns Department for a certain period as far as possible. Special training in burns care for nurses and paramedical staff should be carried out at Safdarjung Hospital and Lok Nayak Hospital. The duty roster in respect of junior as well as senior doctors caring for burns patients should be prominently exhibited on a notice board.

4. As the burns are preventable, all out efforts should be directed to emphasize the prevention of burns through well organized information, collection and communication activities.

5. There should be linkages between these four hospitals through ISDN Connection/LAN in these departments of the hospitals. The patients from the Burns Care units requiring specialized treatment in the Burns Departments must invariably be provided first aid/emergency treatment and thereafter sent by Ambulance.