

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1932

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006

CASES OF CANCER IN CHILDREN

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

- (a) whether 70 thousand cases of cancer in children are detected every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether more than half of the children are deprived of the initial treatment in the absence of separate cancer hospitals and proper protocol for the children;
- (d) whether approximately fifty thousand children die of cancer due to non-availability of proper treatment in time;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to frame a policy/protocol to save the lives of the children from cancer by providing treatment exclusively meant for them; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d): According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) there are about 58,400 new cancer cases in children below 15 years of age based on Population Based Cancer Registry. There were estimated 24,300 deaths in children below 15 years of age in the year 1999-2000.

National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR has two types of registry-

- (1) Population based cancer registry
- (2) Hospital based cancer registry

Recently Cancer Atlas Project has also been carried out. These activities have provided data about cancer patients and related aspects in the country. The data includes children cancers also. However, data is available only for the sites of registry.

(e) to (g): The treatment of cancer is by surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and supportive care. The treatment of childhood cancers is also similar to adult cancer and requires multi speciality support. Under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) financial assistance is provided to the Government Hospitals, some private hospitals & NGOs for cancer care.