

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:229

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

HIGH INCIDENCE OF CANCER CASES IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the occurrence of certain types of cancer cases is higher in the North-Eastern Region as compared to other parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the number of persons affected by such cases, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is an acute shortage of radiotherapy machines in the country, particularly in the North - Eastern Region;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the action taken to check the increasing number of cancer cases and the total budget allocated for the region in the current year?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 229 FOR 14TH MARCH, 2007

Population Based Cancer Registry Programme (PBCR) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) shows occurrence of certain types of cancer e.g. Oesophagus, Lung, Mouth, Nasopharynx, Stomach etc. relatively higher in North Eastern Region as compared to other parts of the country. As per the available data, there is a shortage of Radiotherapy machines in the country including in the North Eastern Region.

Health being a State Subject, it is for the various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. The Central Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of RCCs and Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities.

To provide efficient and cost effective treatment to cancer patients in North Eastern Region, this Ministry has recognized three Regional Cancer Centres namely Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Civil Hospital, Mizoram, which are catering to the needs of the cancer patients. Sufficient amount of grant-in-aid has already been provided to these RCCs for development of infrastructure. In addition, grant-in-aid has also been provided to Medical Colleges/ Hospitals for purchase of equipment under other scheme of the National Cancer Control Programme. RCC Guwahati has been identified for grant of financial assistance under a new scheme, namely, 'Upgradation of the existing RCCs into Centre of Excellence'. As a policy decision, 10% of the total budget of NCCP has been earmarked for NE Region. Over the past three years, total grant worth Rs.26.23 crores has been released to the North Eastern States under various schemes of NCCP including grant of Rs.8.80 crores for the Regional Cancer Centres, Rs.16.99 crores under Oncology wing development scheme and Rs.44.00 lakhs under the District Cancer Control Programme.

This Ministry is also focusing on propagating early detection of the cancer and also to increase awareness among the general masses about the diseases through Media Publicity and also under various schemes of the NCCP.