

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2715

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010

CANCER CASES AND UPGRADATION OF ONCOLOGY WINGS

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

- (a) whether excess utilisation of pesticides in the agricultural and farming operations and high level of nitrate and other chemicals in the ground water are causing a large number of cancer cases in the country;
- (b) if so, whether any study/research has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective measures being taken by the Government to improve the situation;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to upgrade and modernise Oncology Wings in the hospitals in various States including Uttar Pradesh for the treatment of cancer and proposals have also been received in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (f) whether any proposal is also under consideration of the Government to enlist cancer medicines in the list of scheduled medicines; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) to (c): As per International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France's monograph on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, evidence is inadequate in humans and experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of nitrate in food or drinking water.
- (d) & (e): Under the existing National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Government by providing financial assistance to Government Medical Colleges/Institutions. Financial assistance up to Rs. 3.00 crore is provided for setting up Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Collages/Hospitals including the State of Uttar Pradesh. The state-wise distribution of Oncology wing supported under NCCP in India is Annexed.
- (f) & (g): There is no proposal to enlist cancer medicines in the list of scheduled medicines.