

**Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund**

1482. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount provided to patients under the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund;
- (b) the manner in which it is ensured that this fund reaches the needy patients;
- (c) whether Government has considered making provisions for elected representatives to recommend patients to the Health Minister; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) An amount of Rs. 11.40 crore has been released so far during last 3 years to the cancer patients under the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund within Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN).

(b) The financial assistance upto Rs. One lakh to the cancer patients is provided by the Regional Cancer Centres/Government Hospitals concerned through the revolving Fund placed at their disposal. The cases of financial assistance above Rs one lakh are referred by the Hospitals to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for providing funds from the Central Funds.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance is provided to the patients, below poverty line, suffering from cancer and undergoing treatment in Government Hospitals and any of the 27 Regional Cancer Centres. Recommendations of the elected representatives are also taken into account while sanctioning financial assistance provided the patients fulfil the prescribed conditions.

**Responsibilities of DCGI**

1483. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the post of Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is technical post or not;
- (b) whether DCGI is the main regulatory technical guide to all the State Drug Controllers, Central Government and all matters concerning drugs safety, efficacy and quality; and
- (c) the key jobs performed exclusively by DCGI and not performed by the State Drug Controllers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The post of Drugs Controller General (India) DCG (I) is a non-Ministerial technical post assigned with the statutory and other functions relating to implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945.

(b) Like DCG(I), the States' Drug Control authorities have also their

respective statutory and other functions relating to implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945. Both have their exclusive areas of jurisdiction, though DCG (I) remains in touch with state drug authorities on matters of mutual interest and concerns.

(c) The key responsibilities performed by DCG(I) and not performed by State Drug Controllers are as under:

- (1) The Regulatory Control over the import of drugs and cosmetics
- (2) Grant of permission for import or manufacture for sale of new drugs in the country,
- (3) Grant of permission to conduct clinical trials of new drug.
- (4) Convening the meetings of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board and Drugs Consultative Committee.
- (5) Grant or renewal of licences for certain categories of drugs as Central License Approving Authority.

#### **Shortage of nurses**

1484. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission's high-level expert group on health has set a target to have a minimum of two nurses and one auxiliary nurse midwife for every available doctors;

(b) if so, whether this move will help to face the shortage of nurses under National Rural Health Mission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per Planning Commission's Report on High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage for India, the availability and absorption of nurses into the universal health coverage will ensure that the ratio of nurse and midwife (including Auxiliary Nurse/Midwives (ANMs)) per allopathic doctor goes up from the present level of 1.5:1 to 3:1 by 2025.

(b) and (c) Health is a state subject and posts are created by the concerned states. However, the State/UT Governments incorporate their requirement in annual Programme Implementation Plan and funds are released to State/UT Governments as per the approval of National Programme Coordination Committee for actual implementation. As on 30th September, 2011, 66784 ANM and 32860 Staff Nurses have been engaged across the country on contract basis. Besides, Staff Nurses have been engaged across the country on contract basis.

The Ministry has also provided financial assistance to the State for opening of 62 ANM and 70 GNM Schools in various states under the Scheme of Strengthening/upgradation of Nursing Services.