

Growing trend of commercialization in oncology

*483. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Oncologists in some corporate hospitals are taking cancer patients for a ride by administering high end radiation treatment or expensive chemotherapy to them when similar results can be achieved with standard therapy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a growing trend of commercialization in Oncology as in other medical fields;

(c) whether it has been felt that cost *versus* benefit details need to be explained to the patient and his/her family members before providing high end treatment; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to take up these issues with the private hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Different protocols of treatment of cancer are being followed by Oncologists.

(b) Treatment is expected to be based on scientific evidence. Treatment regimen and protocol may change due to new drugs and technological advancements.

(c) It is expected from the treating Oncologists to explain various aspects of the treatment including cost versus benefit to their patients.

(d) Health being a State subject, regulation of Hospitals rests with the State Governments. The Government of India has enacted Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010. As per the Clinical Establishment (Central Government) Rules, 2012, the Clinical Establishment shall ensure compliance of the Standard Treatment Guidelines as may be determined and issued by the Central Government or the State Government as the case may be, from time to time. The implementation of these Rules is to be done by the respective State Governments.

World Bank assistance for pollution-free environment

*484. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: