

addition to Cancer diagnosis and treatment by the State Governments Health Institutes, the Central Government Institutions such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdurjung Hospital, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh, JIPMER Puducherry, Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, etc. provide facilities for diagnosis and treatment of Cancer.

Oncology in its various aspects has focus in case of new AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY). Setting up of National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and 2nd campus of Chittranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata has also been approved.

#### **Revising guidelines for clinical trials**

2498. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government is planning to revise the guidelines for clinical trials with a view to further tighten the standards, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Adequate provisions have been made in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and schedules thereof to ensure the rights, safety and welfare of patients. These include the responsibilities of the Sponsor, Investigator and Ethics Committee, evaluation of the clinical trial proposals by the Subject Expert Committees/ Investigational New Drugs Committee, review of their recommendations by the Technical Committee and, thereafter, approval by the Apex Committee. Further, compensation is required to be paid in case of trial related injury or death within the prescribed timelines. The criteria for deciding the quantum of compensation in case of Serious Adverse Event (SAE) of death or injury (other than death) related to clinical trial have been notified.

#### **National programme on epilepsy**

2499. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people suffering from epilepsy in India over the past five years, and the number who received treatment;

(b) if there is a gap, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that many epilepsy patients face stigma in their workplaces due to their symptoms, if so, the measures taken by Government to tackle this problem; and

(d) whether a national programme on epilepsy is in place, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (d) It is estimated that there are about 8-10 million persons with epilepsy in India. While "Health" is a State subject, the Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments to provide health services including treatment of epilepsy.

General facilities for "early diagnosis and management" of epilepsy are available in Government hospitals. Specialized treatment for epilepsy is available in institutions such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore. In addition, management of mental disorders including treatment for behavioral and psychological systems of epilepsy is also a part of District Mental Health Programme, being implemented in 241 districts of the country.

The treatment gap is attributable to stigma in the society towards epilepsy, inadequate knowledge among the public about availability of treatment, etc.

As informed by National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, workplace stigma is mainly due to lack of awareness among the employees and employers. This is being tackled through various non-Government organizations, mainly Indian Epilepsy Association (IEA). There are 22 chapters of IEA in the country and they are conducting number of awareness campaigns in the forms of lectures, film shows, street shows and various IEC materials for common people.

#### **Financial assistance to states for improving hospital services**

†2500. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Central Government as on date from various State Governments including Maharashtra for financial assistance to improve services in hospitals during the last three years;

(b) the details of the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) whether Government proposes to allocate more funds to State Governments for this purpose in the current Five Year Plan?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.