

Research on Proton Therapy

414. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that developed countries have adopted "Proton Therapy" which is considered to be an advanced cancer care treatment procedure and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is considering any research on Proton Therapy;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any breakthrough has been made by researchers; and

(d) if not, whether Government will collaborate with other advanced countries in getting the technology transferred in view of growing cancer cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), it is aware of advances in proton therapy, a type of Radiation therapy, which is also called proton beam therapy. It uses protons rather than x-rays to treat cancer. At high energy, protons can destroy cancer cells. It can also be combined with x-ray radiation therapy, surgery, chemotherapy, and/or immunotherapy. Like x-ray radiation, proton therapy is a type of external-beam radiation therapy.

(b) to (d) In the Government sector, Research activities for detection and treatment of cancer are mostly carried out by Institutions/Departments such as Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Science and Technology and Department of Atomic Energy. National Cancer Institute (Jhajjar) of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has also collaborated with National Cancer Institute of USA. As informed by Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), a grant-in-aid Institution under Department of Atomic Energy, it has initiated collaboration with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), C-CAD, RRCAT, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), KEK university Japan etc.

Amendments to MTP Act, 1971

415. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971;