

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;

(b) if so, what are the time-line set in this regard; and

(c) whether one of the proposed amendments is to reduce the requirement of provider consent from two providers to one for pregnancies between 12 to 20 weeks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Subsequent upon extensive consultative process with experts and following inter-ministerial consultations, the draft Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been drafted and is under process for finalization.

(c) The MTP (Amendment) Bill, 2019 proposes to reduce the requirement of opinion from two providers to one provider for terminating second trimester pregnancies.

Legislation governing medical devices

416. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government was planning to bring in a new legislation for governing the medical devices, which however, was scrapped later on;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the laws (acts, rules and regulations) governing medical devices in India at present and whether inspections or audits are carried out on imported as well as indigenous medical devices; and

(d) whether grievance redressal mechanism is available under these law for a patient if a medical device/implant turns out to be faulty and whether provision for compensation is being included in the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) The Bill including separate legislative provisions for medical devices called as the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 29.08.2013 which was referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament. The Standing Committee made certain recommendations for changing the provisions of the Bill.

Accordingly, a proposal regarding withdrawal of the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and introduction of the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill,