

## PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 3.9.2012 addressed by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:-

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"It has been brought to my notice that the Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) has introduced user charges for various medical investigations and procedures. This will badly affect poor patients not only from Puducherry but also from the neighbouring districts of our State, namely, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai, who have been availing of health care services free of cost in this institution.

In this context, I wish to place on record that the AIADMK had vehemently opposed the Bill to convert JIPMER into an autonomous institution in Parliament, even at the introduction stage in 2008. Overruling our strident objections, the Bill had been passed with an assurance that the existing free services to the public would be continued without any change. Introduction of user charges for routine investigations and medical procedure amounts to renegeing on the solemn assurance given in Parliament.

So as to ensure that the people of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are not adversely affected, I request you to instruct JIPMER to revisit the decision to introduce the new user charges and revert to the earlier practice of offering free services to the public as assured in 2008."

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