

**Clarification of Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Health Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, regarding the 14 dead bodies brought to Royapettah Govt. Hospital from Miot Hospital**

There have been reports in the media that around 14 patients have died due to the failure of the ventilator system in MIOT, a private hospital located at Nandambakkam, Chennai due to lack of electricity. The matter was enquired in depth by the Secretary, Health.

The facts of the case are as follows:

MIOT is a 1000 bedded Private Hospital. As per the initial report given by the hospital, it had 575 in-patients on 1.12.2015. Totally, 300 patients were discharged by MIOT hospital authorities, 50 on 1.12.2015 and 250 patients on 3.12.2015. **Out of the remaining 275 patients, 56 patients were on ventilator support as on 3.12.2015.** These 56 patients were also shifted by the MIOT hospital authorities to the neighboring private hospitals on their own initiative on 3.12.2015.

On 3.12.2015, distress calls were received from the MIOT hospital authorities by the Corporation of Chennai, DME, Secretary, Health that they and require oxygen and personnel for evacuation of patients in view of severe flooding and lack of electricity.

Immediately, taking into consideration, the well being of the patients admitted in the hospital, the health authorities rushed some oxygen cylinders from the General Hospital, Chennai. Further, since the hospital authorities requested for boats for evacuation, the Secretary, Health himself visited the site along with Minister, Health on 3.12.2015 to ensure that the life of the patients admitted in the hospital is not jeopardized. It was found that the flooding was not of an order requiring boats. Upon inspection, it was found that the generators in the hospital had ceased functioning due to inundation and **the hospital had no standby generators.** The Secretary, Health immediately arranged for seven 108 ambulances to transport the patients to Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Kilpauk Medical College hospitals. **Further, the Secretary, Health also noticed that there were 14 bodies in the mortuary of the MIOT hospital of patients who had died due to medical reasons in the last few days. It was reported that these 14 bodies were not taken away by their relatives due to the floods.** **There was no electricity in the mortuary of MIOT hospital, as the entire Nandambakkam area was inundated and electricity was switched off as a safety measure. The hospital authorities had not provided any further back up to the**

**generators already inundated. Noticing that the bodies could cause a health hazard, on a written requisition of the MIOT hospital authorities, the bodies were removed to Government Royapettah Hospital Mortuary for safe custody.**

Meanwhile, around 140 in-patients were transported to other hospitals and **70 in-patients are left in the hospital as on 4.12.2015**. The MIOT hospital authorities have stated that there are in a position to maintain one floor of the hospital and care for the patients. However, by way of abundant caution keeping in mind the interest of the patients, the state health authorities have offered to shift them to Government hospitals.

**As 14 bodies were shifted to the Royapettah Government Hospital, as per procedure, the Royapettah Hospital authorities made arrangements to have post-mortem done to formally ascertain the cause of death.**

**The media which got information about the 14 bodies which were brought for safe keeping in the Royapettah Government hospital mortuary are trying to give an impression that these patients died due to lack of ventilator support due to lack of power supply in the MIOT premises.**

It is submitted that the State Government had done everything that was possible for the welfare of the patients in the

private hospital due to the extraordinary circumstances prevailing and to ensure that the infection does not spread on account of bodies being kept in the private hospital's mortuary without a back-up generator. Today (4.12.2015) the State Government has also provided a 250 KVa generator for the benefit of the 70 in-patients who are still in the hospital.

As the media is projecting that the death of the 18 persons took place due to lack of electricity, the Secretary, Health Department has clarified the issue to media who sought information.

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