

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 21.3.2013 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:

"I would like to draw your attention to a pending request of the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai, which has applied for upgradation during the 12th Plan period, as a "Centre of Excellence - an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute" for treatment of cancer. I understand that the proposal is pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Cancer Institute was founded in 1954 as a voluntary charitable institution under the inspiring and legendary leadership of the Late Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy. The Cancer Institute, Adyar, is a Non Governmental Institution which the Government of Tamil Nadu has been assisting for over three decades by a maintenance grant. As a Referral Cancer Centre, it provides yeoman service to needy cancer patients from all over India.

The Government of India has so far provided meagre support to this Institute through the Tertiary Cancer Centre Scheme under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardio-vascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) by way of a grant of Rs.4.80 crores for equipment purchased in the year 2011-12. The State Government released a sum of Rs.1.20 crores as the State's share for this.

Considering the excellent service rendered by this Institution for over 3 decades, even while functioning as an NGO, I consider that its status should no more be that of a Tertiary Cancer Institute, but requires to be elevated to the status of a "Centre of Excellence - an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute".

I, therefore, request that the proposal of the Chairperson, Cancer Institute, Adyar, for upgradation of the centre as a National Centre, pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, be approved to enable this reputed Cancer Hospital in Chennai to expand and strengthen its capacity to treat cancer patients in larger number, as a National Institute.

I recommend that the Cancer Institute, Adyar, one of the oldest NGO run Cancer Hospitals in the country be conferred with National status as "a Centre of Excellence", particularly when it has been rated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the "Top Ranking Centre" in the Country.

May I request a line in reply?."

Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai – 9.

Date: 22.3.2013.