



SENATE OF PAKISTAN

Report No.3 of 2019

REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES,
REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

Point of public importance regarding high charges of private hospitals and laboratories and pathetic condition of public hospitals raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR KHUSHBAKHT SHUJAT
Chairperson SSC on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

I, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have the honor to present the report, on behalf of the Committee on point of public importance regarding **“High charges of private hospitals and laboratories and pathetic condition of public hospitals”** raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi

2. The matter was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination for consideration and report to the House.

3. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
3. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
4. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
5. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
6. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
7. Senator Sikandar Mandhro	Member
8. Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
9. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
10. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
11. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
12. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
13. Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	Member
14. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Standing Committee considered the issue in its different meetings. The Committee disposed of the matter in its meeting held on 19th December, 2019 and decided to submit the report to the House. The meeting was attended by the following members, namely:-

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
4. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5. Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
6. Senator Sikandar Mandhro	Member

SUMMARY

The Committee was apprised of the fact that no regulatory establishment is functional in Islamabad to regulate the business of private hospitals, clinics and laboratories so as to fix their charges. The prices and charges of doctor and laboratories are unbridled. At the same time it cannot be ignored that the public health sector is unable to cater to the needs of the public at large.

When both the facts are analyzed juxtaposedly, it should not go un-noticed that the private sector is serving far more population than that of public sector. Unfortunately Pakistan inherited an inadequate health care delivery system, quite a poor heritage of the British Raj. Naturally private sector filled the gap and it is serving nearly 70% of the population while 30% of the population opts for the public sector. Pakistan is a low income country and according to Human Poverty Index (H.P.I) it ranks 65th among 102 developing countries. Only 27% of the population benefited from full health care coverage that included mostly government employees and members of the Armed Forces and remaining 73% depended upon out of pocket payment. In Pakistan public sector health expenditure is 0.919% of GDP as per World Bank data 2014.

The case of establishment of Islamabad Health Care regulatory Authority on the pattern of Punjab Health Care Commission is in process. It will be established very soon and with the establishment of such a facility the business of private hospitals, clinics and laboratories will be regulated under same authority. The Government is endeavoring to strengthen the infrastructure of the existing health facilities. PC-I amounting to Rs.851.610 million has been approved for up-gradation of all RHCs and BHUs for effective health care provision. For effective delivery of services, the Government is also focusing on filling the vacant posts of different cadres like Medical Officers and other Para-Medical staff. The vacant positions will be filled very shortly to provide the health care delivery to the patients. Unfortunately at present no institutional arrangement is there to rein the private sector in. The soon the Health Care


Commission is established, the rules and SOPs will come into place to regulate the Private Health Care system. It was also briefed that the appointment of CEO of Health Care Commission will be finalized till mid of January, 2020.


As far as public sector is concerned the Ministry disagreed that the condition of public sector health facilities is pathetic. It is fact that patients from all parts of the country specially GB, KPK, FATA, Murree, AJK and vast adjacent areas of the Punjab visit the public health facilities of Islamabad on daily basis. The FGPC is overloaded and overburdened with the visit of patients of the above said areas. The resources available to FGPC are quite inadequate to cater to the needs of the work load. Admittedly the workload critically comprises the quality of service delivery. Despite the meager resources at disposal of Health Ministry the FGPC is providing free quality patient care in variety of 31 specialties. All kind of emergency treatment, operations, out-door patients and Gynae care services are being provided to the swarming patients coming from the widespread areas.

The Federal General Hospital is providing Laboratory Services free of charge to general public. The hospital has a full-fledged laboratory headed by a Pathologist. The hospital laboratory ensures quality assurance in lab tests.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended that carelessness in pathological examination can lead to very fatal consequences. The whole process requires a very minute observation. A strict mechanism of oversight of the lab examinations/tests be devised for meticulous preparation of reports and results. The Committee also directed that the newly devised mechanism be shared with the Committee.


(Javaid Iqbal)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Khushbakht Shujat)
Chairperson Committee