



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (H.Q.s.)

(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)

Mutually Affiliated with the British & Nepal Medical Associations

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IMA/HSG/2019

December 21, 2019

Shri Narendra Modiji

Prime Minister of India

Prime Minister's Office

South Block, Raisina Hill

New Delhi-110011

Respected Sir,

Greetings from Indian Medical Association HQs!

Indian Medical Association (IMA) is a pan-India voluntary organization of doctors practicing modern system of medicine. It has a membership of 3.5 lakh doctors spread over in 32 State Branches and more than 1700 local branches in almost all the districts of India.

Sir, the Medical profession as a whole was happy at the move of the Central Government to enact a law which would have been a deterrent to rowdy elements of the society who indulge in violence in hospitals and destroy the property as well as attack the doctors in case of any mishap in a Hospital.

But IMA has taken serious exception to the newspaper reports of the Home Ministry scuttling the Central legislation against violence on doctors and hospitals. It is reliably understood that the Home ministry has scuttled the draft central legislation taking an unacceptable stand that no one profession will get special treatment. The Union Health Ministry is on record regarding the need of such a law. An assurance was also given in the floor of the Parliament. 22 states and Union Territories have legislations on violence on doctors and hospitals. However for want of law under items 1 and 2 of the concurrent list these legislations have been largely ineffective. A drafting committee was formed by the Union Health Ministry after the nationwide withdrawal of services by doctors on 17th June 2019. The entire medical fraternity of India had withdrawn non-essential services across the sectors for 24 hours on that day on the issue of unacceptable level of violence perpetrated on doctors and hospitals.

Healthcare industry is constantly under fear that unsatisfied patients and their relatives will resort to violence on petty issues. Daily occurrence is being reported in various parts of the country on a regular basis. We will like to site a recent incidence where Dr. Manas Ranjan das, a 61 years old Paediatrician, who was busy examining a child at a private Clinic-cum-medicine store in Khorda town on 15.12.2019, was shot by an unidentified miscreant. The armed assailant, who had his face covered with a monkey cap, also opened fire on the medicine store owner. Dr. Das is battling for his life at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. His condition is critical.

Doctors for Doctors and Community at Large

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The clinic is located near a busy market at Badashankkha in Khorda town, 35km from Bhubaneswar. The accused fired two rounds of bullets at the doctor and came out of the room. Panic gripped the clinic where at least fifteen patients were waiting for their turn. IMA condemns the drastic barbaric attack on a senior doctor providing care to his patients.

With the draft legislation in Public domain the medical profession of the country had expectations that the law is imminent. IMA hopes that the Government does not go back on its word in this regard. IMA in fact has demanded a comprehensive solution for violence. The proposed law is only a deterrent. Adequate security and declaring hospitals as safe zones are part of the demand as well. Social determinants of violence also have to be addressed. Addressing infrastructure and Human resources inadequacy in public hospitals and tax funded schemes to purchase care from private hospitals had been cited as possible solutions.

Medical profession and healthcare are indeed unique and are comparable to no other profession. Any violence on doctors is indirect violence on patients. Patient care and safety will be the first casualty. The Home Ministry will be well advised to reconsider and revise its stand. IMA appeals to you Sir to take a favourable decision in this regard sending a strong message against violence on doctors and Hospitals and direct the authorities to expedite the passage of the bill in the next session of Parliament.

With regards,

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

Dr Santanu Sen
National President

Dr R V Asokan
Hony. Secretary General

Copy to:

1) Shri. Amit Shah, Hon'ble Home Minister, Govt. of India
Room No 104, North Block, Central Secretariat, New Delhi-110001

2) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare
Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

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