



TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE

TATA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AND

ADVANCED CENTRE FOR TREATMENT, RESEARCH & EDUCATION IN CANCER

Dr. (Prof.) R. A. Badwe MS
Director

November 27, 2013

Shri P. Chidambaram,
Hon'ble Finance Minister of India,
Room No.134, North Block,
New Delhi 110 001.

Dear Sir,

Sub: NDPS Amendment Bill 2011

I am aware that the Finance Ministry has prepared a new bill seeking suitable amendments to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) with the purpose of improving the accessibility of narcotics, in particular morphine, for the use of pain relief in patients with advanced cancer.

More than 75% of patients seeking treatment for their cancer have disease in an advanced stage. These unfortunate patients have intolerable pain. Morphine is the ideal drug to be used in such persons.

Majority of the states of India have not implemented the simplified rules brought out in 1998. Rules still vary from State to State, thus making it very difficult for procuring medicinal morphine.

I have been informed by my colleagues in palliative care that the Ministry of Finance has made many attempts to have the bill introduced in the Lok Saba during the last two sessions.

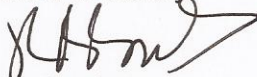
I am aware the current winter session of Parliament beginning on early December is very short and there are many important items of legislation waiting to be tabled.

As the forthcoming winter session may be the last opportunity for this bill to be passed, the oncology community in general and palliative care professionals in particular, are very anxious that this bill be taken up for consideration and passed.

I request you to kindly facilitate the passage of the bill which would touch the lives of thousands of people in pain in the country.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,


R.A. Badwe.