

परमाणु
ऊर्जा
नियामक
परिषद



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Atomic
Energy
Regulatory
Board



सचिव, परूनिय
एवं
निदेशक, सूचना एवं तकनीकी सेवाएं प्रभाग
एवं
निदेशक, औद्योगिक संयंत्र संरक्षा प्रभाग

SECRETARY, AERB
&
Director, Information & Technical Services Division
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PRESS RELEASE

Radiation Safety Concerns at Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi

A news item has appeared in the section of the press regarding 'unsafe practices' in handling radioactive material by Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi.


On behalf of AERB, it is clarified that the activities of Lok Nayak Hospital relating to use of radioactivity have been under regulatory surveillance on regular basis.

The hospital was not having Medical Physicist/Radiological Safety Officer (RSO) since 2009, in view of which they were instructed to stop radiotherapy practice. Recently (a few months back), a Medical Physicist has been appointed and has been approved to work as RSO by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in June 2011. The hospital will be allowed to resume radiotherapy practice subject to:

- (i) Satisfactory performance (QA) of the radiotherapy equipment.
- (ii) Availability of adequate number of qualified radiotherapy staff.
- (iii) Availability of calibrated dosimeter and survey meter.
- (iv) Disposal of all the disused sources as per the procedure laid down by AERB.

On receipt of formal communication from the hospital and subject to compliance of the above, approval for resumption of radiotherapy practice will be accorded by AERB.

It is further clarified that Lok Nayak Hospital does not have telecaesium unit, which is reported to be lying defunct at radiotherapy department for 15 years. This telecaesium unit was decommissioned by the hospital authority in the year 2008. However, Lok Nayak Hospital is having one disused telecobalt unit and brachytherapy sources, which are pending for safe disposal. Further, based on our inspections it is observed that they are stored in a safe and secure manner.


(R. Bhattacharya)



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