

පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක - 222

සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය

පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ රජයේ ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සහාගත කරන ලද
වාර්තා සම්බන්ධයෙන් ස්ථාවර නියෝග 119(4) යටතේ ගරු අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ
හා ගනු ලබන පියවර පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම

පාරාලුමන්හ වෙළුමිද්දු තොදර් ඉල - 222

සුකාතාර අමෙස්ස

පාරාලුමන්හ අරස කණ්ණුකුල් සුමුවිනාල් මුන් වෙස්සුප්ප්ප්ද්ද අහික්කෙ තොදර්පාක
නිලෙයියල් කද්දනෙ ඉලක්කම් 119(4)ඉන් ජිම් කෙලරව අමෙස්සරින් අවතානිප්පුක්කලුම්
මණ්ණුම් අතු තොදර්පාක ආදුක්කප්පදුම් ත්දවදික්කෙකලුම් පාරාලුමන්හත්තීර්තු සමර්ප්පිත්තල්

Parliamentary Series Number – 222

Ministry of Health

Submission of observations of Hon. Minister and steps taken with
regard to the reports tabled by the Committee on Public Accounts in
terms of Standing Order No. 119(4)

Observations/ directives /Recommendationsby the Committees	Actions taken to implement the recommendation/order
To submit a precise report to the Committee including the dates on which the new "Swastha" data system will be fully implemented in all hospitals.	The relevant report has been submitted by the Secretary of Health, by the No. CA/AQ/FCC 02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023(IV) dated 06.10.2023. The "Swastha" database system has been expanded up to 2742 hospitals, covering all hospitals in the island, as at 31.07.2025.
Making emergency purchases at higher prices despite the availability of medicines	When purchasing medicines, imported medicines are procured through the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation while other medicines are procured from the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation and local manufacturers. The progress of the orders is monitored at the Medical Supply Review Meeting to ensure that the relevant orders are delivered within the stipulated time frame. Therefore, emergency purchases have been minimized currently and such purchases are made only in urgent cases through the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, subject to the required approvals. I.e., weekly medicine review meetings are held to review supplies and such emergency purchasing decisions are made only in the most urgent cases, and this is done only on the basis of a collective decision taken with the participation of senior officials in the Ministry of Health.

In this context, priority has been given to the general procurement procedure carried out through the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, with a view to encouraging it and issuing instructions to ensure that the procurement process is carried out efficiently. Furthermore, in the procurement of imported medicines, order schedules have currently been provided to the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation to maintain a minimum stock level of six months for each item. Accordingly, the necessary instructions have been issued to the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation to open letters of credit.

Moreover, the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation is currently undertaking the necessary actions to obtain stocks relating to the 2026 orders, for which procurement activities have already been completed to the Medical Supplies Division, commencing from November of this year.

In addition, the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation and local manufacturers have been encouraged to obtain more medicines, thereby it has been provided maximum support to local suppliers to reduce the amount of imported medicines and produce high-quality medicines locally.

Furthermore, the necessary measures are currently being taken to expand storage facilities in order to maintain adequate stocks in the Medical Supplies Division.

Necessary provisions have been allocated for the construction of new warehouses and the development of existing warehouses with the assistance of the

	Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in this regard and necessary measures are being undertaken to ensure the prompt completion of these activities. Accordingly, a necessary plan is currently being implemented to maintain adequate stocks in a manner that safeguards the quality of medicines, thereby minimizing emergency procurements. Alternative measures have currently been proposed to procure medicines that cannot be supplied due to the absence of registered suppliers or other procurement issues and necessary steps have been taken to minimize shortages and prevent emergency purchases by laying the groundwork for these proposals to be submitted for Cabinet approval. Even if all the above matters occur/are occurring, due to unavoidable circumstances, local purchases may still be necessary to prevent medicine shortages in institutions while ensuring uninterrupted patient care services and such purchases will be permitted in accordance with procurement guidelines. Although the small-scale purchase resulted in price fluctuations above the tender price, this method had to be followed due to the absence of alternative measures and the need to maintain uninterrupted patient care services.
Even though the University of Colombo had submitted a 77-page report to the effect that the Medical Supply Management Information System (MSMIS) and Swastha data system can be implemented which were established in the Ministry of	A report in this regard has been submitted by the Secretary of Health, by the No. CA/AQ/FCC 02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023 (IV) dated 06.10.2023.

Health, it was suggested to introduce a new system through the newly added page to the aforesaid report namely "Page No 78", and the Committee recommended to examine this matter and submit a report regarding the same.	
Disciplinary action- Obtaining a full report from the Public Service Commission, since it was revealed before the Committee that the officer who served as the Deputy Director of the Outpatient Department of the National Hospital, Colombo has been cleared of all charges.	This recommendation has been made to the Public Service Commission.
<u>National Cancer Control Programme</u> Establishment of high quality high powerful radiation equipment for patients	<u>1)The number of deaths due to cancer in Sri Lanka has increased</u> The Ministry of Health has taken several steps to reduce the number of deaths due to cancer. I. Further strengthening cancer early detection strategies. A system for early detection of cancer has been strengthened through the Suwanari programmes (over a thousand clinics) and Healthy Lifestyle Centres (over a thousand centres), which provide services down to the grassroots level. Furthermore, Cancer Early Detection Clinics have been established to facilitate the early identification of cancer and to provide necessary guidance and counselling. At present, five Cancer Early Detection Centres have been established across the island.

The capacity to detect oral cancer at the pre-cancerous stage has been strengthened through dental surgical clinics. In addition, a national programme is being implemented to identify cancer and pre-cancerous conditions through mobile dental clinics, particularly targeting high-risk groups.

Moreover, 26 Breast Clinics are in operation under the direction of General Surgeons and Onco surgeons across all nine provinces of the island.

Furthermore, programmes have been developed to standardize and improve the quality of cancer treatment.

Eg:

II. Improving facilities for cancer diagnosis

III. Strengthening cancer treatment units and linear accelerator treatments provided.

2) Measures taken to prevent tobacco and cigarette-related cancers

i. To make the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) a strong mechanism. In accordance, the following measures have been taken by now.

- Providing the necessary psychological counseling services to rehabilitate individuals from tobacco and alcohol a dedication by upgrading the counseling service offered through the '1948' hotline.
- Necessary steps are being taken to change the existing taxation structure in Sri Lanka for

tobacco productions and introduce a developed taxation module. This will reduce tobacco use by making it less affordable and by reducing the number of new smokers tempted to purchase cigarettes.

- Over time revision of pictorial warnings to reduce the uptake of tobacco among new users.

ii. Minimizing tobacco use in Government Institutions through Public Administration circulars.

iii. An art competition on oral cancer prevention and control was held to educate the community through school children, raising awareness about risk factor reduction and the importance of early detection of oral cancer.

iv. A press conference was held in Sri Lanka to commemorate World Head and Neck Cancer Day. During the event, relevant educational materials were distributed to journalists to serve as a reference for spreading the message among the public.

v. A national review of oral cancer prevention and control has been conducted in the previous year with the participation of 27 regional dental surgeons across the country to evaluate oral cancer control activities carried out in Sri Lanka.

vi. In order to make the public aware about the prohibition of betel, tobacco, and areca nut products within government institutions, 8,000 posters in Sinhala and 2,000 in Tamil were printed and distributed (only for the year 2025). Since the majority of the public visits Grama Niladhari offices

	to receive services, posters were distributed among these institutions to be displayed in their offices. vii. All Medical Officer of Health offices have been directed by the District Directors of Health Services to oversee areca nut and areca nut-based products, which constitute offenses under the Food Act and are subject to penalties. 3) <u>Operation of Linear accelerator</u> The necessary air conditioning facilities have been provided for the operation of the Linear Accelerator installed in the Kandy Cancer Treatment Unit for the main cancer treatment system in the year 2025.
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