

## **Trauma care centres needs 372 Doctors through OPSC**

June 6, 2016

Trauma care on crutches

Bhubaneswar, June 5: Trauma care centres across the state are struggling to kick-start, but the government has set its eyes on establishing eight more such units in addition to those it has already claimed to have set up.

A reality check revealed that most of the eight centres that the government claimed to have built are yet to become operational primarily due to manpower shortage and non-availability of equipment.

These centres are being set up under a scheme launched by the ministry of health and family welfare to bring down the number of road accident deaths to 10 per cent by developing a pan-India trauma care network. The ministry is keen to ensure that no accident victim has to be transported more than 50km for treatment.

Under the scheme, the state has initiated steps to set up trauma care centres at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, VSS Institute of Medical Science and Research in Burla near Sambalpur, Rourkela General Hospital and district headquarter hospitals at Khurda, Balasore, Bhadrak and Puri.

In reality, other than the 21-bed trauma care centre at the SCB, most other centres are in limbo. The trauma care centre at MKCG is yet to become operational though work on the building was completed on March 2, 2009. Sources said shortage of doctors and paramedics were to blame for this. Consequently, accident victims have to be rushed to either Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh or to Bhubaneswar.

Each centre, according to central guidelines, should have eight senior resident doctors, six ICU medical officers, four pharmacists and 18 staff nurses. "But no senior resident doctors are interested to work here. The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) had published an advertisement for posting of six senior resident doctors at this centre twice. But there were no respondents," said MKCG superintendent Ashok Kumar Behera.

One senior resident doctor requesting anonymity said: "We are not interested in a posting at the trauma care centre because it deprives us of the opportunity to become assistant professors. A senior resident doctor can become an assistant professor only after working in a government medical college for three years, say Medical Council of India guidelines."

Accidents victims are the sufferers with the trauma care centre not working. "We receive 15 to 20 accident victims every day at the surgery department," said MKCG head of surgery Rasananda Mangual.

Situation is also same at the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Burla.

The 20-bed trauma centre is ready, but it cannot become functional because of shortage of doctors. "Medical officers for the ICU, anaesthetist, orthopaedic specialist, neurosurgeon and a specialist in general surgery are yet to be appointed," said nodal officer of the trauma care centre B. Sahu.

Functioning of the trauma care centre at Rourkela Government Hospital is hamstrung by lack of specialists in surgery, orthopaedics, anaesthesia and neurology. The hospital's lone orthopaedic surgeon is now managing it.

The trauma care centre at Balasore, the foundation for which was laid six years ago by chief minister Naveen Patnaik, is of little use because it lacks the necessary equipment. These have not been purchased for want of funds.

Chief district medical officer Bhabani Shankar Pani said: "We require at least Rs 2 crore for procuring machinery and equipment. We also need specialists in orthopaedics, cardiology and anaesthesia to run the unit."

However, officials of the state health department are hopeful of providing required manpower and equipment to the trauma care centres shortly.

"We are waiting for the recruitment of 372 doctors through the OPSC. Required equipment are also being procured by the Odisha State Medicine Corporation," said joint secretary in the health department Surajit Das.