



Law soon on 'treatment first, payment next' policy for private hospitals

KOLAR: The state government is planning to amend relevant law to ensure that the private hospitals follow the principle "treatment first payment next," said Health and Family Welfare Minister K R Ramesh Kumar.

"A committee headed by a retired judge of the high court will be constituted to suggest amendments for the law. The bill in this regard will be tabled in the legislature session scheduled to begin on June 5. After it becomes a law, the private hospitals will have to compulsorily display a price chart indicating the cost for treatments. Private hospitals which demand money from patients without providing treatment stand to lose their licence," he said.

The minister was speaking at a district-level convention organised by the employees' association of Health and Family Welfare Services and Medical Education departments in Kolar.

He said that complaint boxes would be installed at all private hospitals and public can drop in their complaints in the box, which would be taken up for redressal.

A single window system to accord permission for setting up of private hospitals will also be introduced.

Ramesh Kumar said that the



Health and Family Welfare Minister K R Ramesh Kumar speaks at convention in Kolar. DH PHOTO

department had 32 posts of deputy directors and some of them do not have any work at all. Some have got the post with the help of influence.

Unnecessary posts in the department will be scrapped. Examinations will be held for the post of district health and family welfare officer. Post graduate courses will be introduced at government hospitals, he

added.

"All attempts are being made to scuttle setting up of MRI and CT scan units in district hospitals and dialysis centres in taluk hospitals and establishment of generic drug stores. But, the government will not be cowed down by the private hospital lobby," he declared.

Expressing his displeasure

over doctors hesitating to serve in rural areas, the minister said that people who are born and grow up in villages were not willing to serve their own people even if they are offered a salary of Rs 1.25 lakh per month. They are happy serving in private hospitals for a low salary.

He said that the dignity of government health facilities will go up if poor are offered medical services free of cost.

"But, it is painful to see the injustice being meted out at government hospitals. We cannot be mute spectators for the irregularities."

The minister added that steps would be taken to fill the vacancies in the health department and warned of stringent action against persons assaulting government doctors.

State president of Health and Family Welfare Services and Medical Education departments' employees' association, A Puttaswamy said that the district hospitals should be retained under Health department and should not be attached to Medical Education department.

He urged the minister to take steps for changing the cadre and recruitment rules for the department, fill vacancies and ensure payment of salaries to the staff before fifth of every month.

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