

PBT seeks criminal prosecution against AMRI Hospital  
Kolkata | Saturday, Dec 10 2011 IST

People for Better Treatment (PBT) has demanded criminal prosecution against AMRI's board of members and suspension of license of all medics for alleged criminal negligence resulting a fire in the hospital that claimed lives of some 90 helpless patients in asphyxiation on Friday. PBT has submitted a memorandum to West Bengal Chief Minister and Health Minister Mamta Banerjee, seeking a transparent investigation and criminal prosecution of alleged reckless members of the hospital administration. President of PBT, an NGO, Dr Kunal Saha claimed that the Advanced Medicare Research Institute (AMRI) and many other private hospitals in West Bengal have been reaping enormous profit by brazen violation of medical and ethical norms without caring for the lives of the hapless patients and their families. The people involved with administration of the AMRI Hospital, including all members of the hospital board, must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law. The license of any doctors involved with this criminal negligence must be suspended by the West Bengal Medical Council, Mr Saha said in a statement. The PBT also demanded compensation of at least Rs 50 lakh for each family of deceased and Rs 20 lakh for each of the injured individuals. Unless the government provides imminent and equitable justice, we will move the appropriate court of law to bring justice for all victims of medical negligence and those who have died and/or injured in the fire at the AMRI Hospital, Dr Saha has threatened. Ironically, this was the same hospital where US-based child psychologist Anuradha Saha, wife of PBT's founding-president Dr Kunal Saha, fell prey to gross medical negligence during a social visit to India in 1998. On October 21, 2011, the National Consumer Forum (NCDRC) awarded a compensation of Rs 1.7 crore, highest in Indian medical history, against the AMRI Hospital and three other Kolkata doctors. UNI PC AK/SRC SK BD1635