

## Goa CM Manohar Parrikar to return soon



BJP leaders including Union Minister Suresh Prabhu and Goa minister Francisco D'Souza informed that Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, who is currently undergoing treatment in the US is recovering well and will soon return.

On February 15, Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar was diagnosed with advanced cancer of the pancreas and was immediately taken to the US for further treatment - which led to speculations whether there can be a possibility of change in leadership in the state. However, Union Minister for commerce and industry Suresh Prabhu said on Saturday that Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who is undergoing treatment in the US, is responding well to the treatment in the US hospital and will return soon. On Tuesday, Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari had said here that the party was not looking at any change in leadership.

Parrikar, who is currently in the US and is admitted to a New York-based hospital earlier this month for treatment ? was confident about his return in six week. There were speculations that in view of Parrikar's health, the party was thinking of an interim arrangement to head the government. However, these speculations were ruled out by Gadkari saying, "Parrikar is the chief minister and after two months, he will be back. Under his leadership, Goa will see further development. Any discussion on this issue is baseless."

Furthermore, State Urban Development Minister Francis D'Souza said although Parrikar is away from the state, he has not given his powers to anyone else as he is available to the cabinet ministers and secretaries over the phone whenever they require his guidance. D'Souza said, "There was a practice of giving the charge to someone else whenever the CM left the state. But that was mostly done when the modes of communication were limited. But now communication is a not a problem. Every day, Parrikar is in touch with chief secretary, principal secretary or whoever wants to talk to him. So where is the issue? As far as the administration is concerned there are no issues."