

**Treatment facilities for cancer patients**

250. SHRI H.K. DUA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated total number of cancer patients in India;
- (b) the details of steps being taken to provide adequate treatment to these patients;
- (c) the number of regional cancer research centres-cum-hospitals functioning in the country and how many more are going to be set up during the next couple of years; and
- (d) how much is the shortage of cancer specialists in the country and how it is going to be met?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) As per the data provided by the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the estimated total number of prevalent cancer patients in India for the year 2013 is approximately 29 lakhs.

(b) While Health is a State subject, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for improving healthcare including prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Government of India had launched a comprehensive National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) in 2010 covering 100 districts in 21 States with focus on 3 sites namely breast, cervical and oral cancer. From 2013-14 onwards, interventions under NPCDCS for prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, which can be taken up upto District level, have been brought under the umbrella of National Health Mission.

In addition, Government of India has in the year 2013-14, approved a scheme for enhancing the Tertiary Care Cancer facilities in the country. Under this scheme (tertiary component of NPCDCS), Government of India will assist 20 State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and 50 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country. The maximum assistance inclusive of State Share for SCI is ₹ 120 crores and for TCCC is ₹ 45 crores. The Central and State share will be in the ratio 75:25, and for North East and Hill States this ratio would be 90:10.

Government of India also provides treatment of cancer through Central Government Hospitals/Institutions in different parts of the country such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh, JIPMER Puducherry, Chittranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata etc.

Oncology in its various aspects has focus in case of new AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY). The proposal of setting up of National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar and development of 2nd campus of Chittranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata has also been approved. Financial assistance to patients is also provided under the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant and Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi. The treatment in Government institutions is either free or subsidized.

(c) 27 Regional Cancer Centres were recognized and supported under the erstwhile National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) for treatment of cancer patients. In the 12th FYP, the NCCP is no longer in operation.

(d) There is no central data available to ascertain the quantum of shortage of cancer specialists in the country. However, to increase the number of seats in Super speciality courses in Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology and broad speciality course in radiotherapy, the ratio of number of Post-graduate teachers to the number of students to be admitted has been now increased to 1:3 for a Professor subject to a maximum of 6 PG seats per unit per academic year. Human Resource Development is also focus under PMSSY. The National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar and 2nd campus of Chittranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata also have a mandate for capacity building. The mandate of State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) supported under NPCDCS includes enhancing of trained manpower for cancer.

#### **Resurfacing of TB in the country**

251. SHRI H.K. DUA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the reports that a large number of anti-TB drugs have developed resistance among TB patients and if so, which are these drugs;

(b) the steps Government is going to take to stop the prescription and distribution of these drugs in the country;

(c) whether research is going on in the country on development of new drugs to fight the TB menace which has during the last few years again became manifest;

(d) if so, the progress thereof; and

(e) the approximate total number of TB patients as well as specialist doctors available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The Government is aware about development of resistance to anti-TB drugs by some patients taking anti-TB treatment.