

Preventive measures against cancer

2708. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned at the increasing number of cancer related deaths, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has suggested prioritizing cancer prevention and control programmes to deal with the menace;

(b) if so, whether the number of cancer related deaths in India have increased by almost 60 per cent between 1990 and 2013, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether one third of cancers can be prevented by implementing interventions such as vaccinations to prevent hepatocellular carcinoma and cervical cancer; and

(d) whether WHO passed a resolution to control risk factors leading to cancer, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) The WHO South East Asia Regional Committee, in its 68th session held in Timor Leste, adopted resolution no. SEA/RC68/R5 on 11 September 2015, on "Cancer Prevention and Control - the way forward". The said resolution noted that many cancers are preventable, can be detected early and treated, which improves survival and quality of life. It urged the Member States, *inter-alia*, to develop/strengthen a comprehensive national cancer prevention and control programme, integrated within a broader multisectoral NCD action plan.

(b) As reported by ICMR, as per the National Cancer Registry Programme, the estimated number of cancer related deaths in India have increased by 56.3% between 1990 and 2013.

	1990	2013	% change
Estimated Mortality cancer cases (both sexes)	305928	478185	56.3

(c) As reported by ICMR, it is difficult to quantify the cases that can be prevented as cancer is a disease of multi factorial origin and could be due to various risk factors. However, increased access to vaccination for cancers preventable through vaccine such as Hepatitis B virus reduces the risk of hepatocellular cancer.

(d) The WHO South East Asia Regional Committee, in its 68th session called for implementing multisectoral actions for primary prevention of cancer risk factors, in particular tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, infections causing cancers, behavioural risk factors, exposure to environmental risk factors and increasing public awareness to reduce modifiable risk factors and strengthening community based interventions.