

Demand for reducing GST on cancer treatment drugs

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, cancer has become a major health concern in our country. In fact, it is the second major cause of death, after heart disease. And, we all know one or the other of our loved ones -- they may be our friends or may be a family member -- who have succumbed to cancer or are suffering from cancer.

According to the National Cancer Registry Program Report, released by the ICMR, conservatively, there are about 15.7 lakh cases of cancer in our country. And, by 2025, seven lakh new cases will be added every year and it is estimated that there will be six lakh deaths due to cancer in the country. These are shocking numbers, Sir. It affects all segments of our society. It disproportionately impacts the people belonging to the lower socio-economic strata of our society, who are at considerable disadvantage, so far as access to public health services and access to cancer drugs is concerned. Sir, the proportion of expenditures, directly paid by the patients with a lower-medium income, is very high. And, in many cases, it exhausts the entire monthly income of the family. The worst part of this is that the cancer drugs are of recurring nature and one has to buy them every month. Though the Government of India has taken several initiatives for the welfare of cancer patients, including schemes, like, Rashtriya Aaryogya Nidhi and State Illness Assistance Fund, yet there is an urgent and clear need for lowering the prices of cancer drugs in our country to make these life-saving drugs available and affordable to the patients belonging to the poor segments of the society, especially in this COVID scenario.

Sir, one of the identified ways to reduce the prices of cancer drugs is through deduction of GST on cancer drugs. An hon. Member had already raised this issue in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, but because of the importance of the matter, I felt the need to raise it again. Before the GST regime, in most of the States, the cancer drugs were exempted from the excise duties, the custom duties, and VAT. But, today, in the GST regime, most of the drugs used for cancer treatment are falling under 12 per cent GST slab. As per an estimate of an industry report, the revenue earned by the Government of India through 12 per cent GST on cancer drugs is approximately Rs. 582 crores.

Sir, you will kindly agree with me that if we calculate the burden on the country's public health due to the unaffordability of cancer treatment, it would be several times more than this revenue of Rs. 582 crores that the Government earns. Moreover, it has a cascading effect on the economy of the country also. If the

Government can keep the GST of COVID vaccine at 5 per cent, why can't it reduce the GST on cancer drugs also?

Through you, Sir, I would like to request the GST Council to consider this very justified demand for reducing the GST on the cancer drugs.

Thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to raise this very important matter.

चौधरी सुखराम सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI KUMAR KETKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. BANDA PRAKASH (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA (Rajasthan): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Need to allow admissions for academic year 2020-21 in respect of Diploma in Elementary Education without treating it as zero year

श्रीमती सीमा द्विवेदी (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, आज मैं सदन में एक ऐसे विषय पर चर्चा करना चाहती हूँ, जो शिक्षा से जुड़ा हुआ है और इस पर ध्यान देने की बहुत आवश्यकता है। हम माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी और मानव संसाधन मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहेंगे, जिन्होंने शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में बहुत बड़े कदम उठाये हैं। उन्होंने गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा देने का काम किया है, इनके प्रति मैं आभार व्यक्त करना चाहती हूँ।

महोदय, वर्ष 2020 कोरोना काल में सारे स्कूल्स, कॉलेजेज़ बंद रहे और आपने देखा होगा कि छोटे-छोटे बच्चे, जो नर्सरी, कक्षा-1, कक्षा-2 तथा कक्षा-3 के हैं, उनकी क्लासेज़ ऑनलाइन चलीं, लेकिन एक ऐसा वर्ग D.El.Ed., जो शिक्षा देने के लिए शिक्षित होने की ट्रेनिंग देता है, कोरोना काल में उनकी प्रवेश परीक्षा न होने के कारण वे इससे वंचित रह गये। वर्ष 2020-21 में देश भर के सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी सभी कॉलेजेज़ बंद रहे और विद्यालयों के बंद रहने का असर शिक्षकों और विद्यार्थियों दोनों के जीवन पर पड़ा।