

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS**

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1320
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th February, 2021

Increase in number of cancer patients

1320 Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of **Chemicals and Fertilizers** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the number of cancer patients have increased in the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to develop anti-cancer drugs to mitigate the problems of patients;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government is taking measures to cap the prices of cancer drugs to make them affordable to cancer patients; and
- (f) if so, the response of Government in this regard, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to (d): As per the latest report of the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the year 2020, the annual figures of estimated incidence and mortality of cancer cases are as under:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Estimated incidence of cancer cases	12,92,534	13,25,232	13,58,415
Estimated mortality of cancer cases	7,15,010	7,33,139	7,51,517

Further, the projected number of incidences of cancer cases in the country for the year 2025 is 15.7 lakhs.

Cancer is a multi-factorial disease, the risk factors of which include ageing population, sedentary lifestyle, use of tobacco products, unhealthy diet and air pollution. In Government hospitals, treatment is either free or highly subsidized. Treatment of cancers is also available under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR), Noida. In order to enhance the facilities for tertiary care of cancer, the Central Government is implementing Strengthening of Tertiary Care for Cancer Scheme, under which setting up of 19 State Cancer Institutes and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres have been approved. Further, Oncology is also one of the focus areas in case of new AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The Government has launched www.cancerindia.org with the theme "India

Against Cancer”, a portal that provides information on the leading cancers in India with a major focus on awareness, prevention and treatment of these cancers.

(e) & (f): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling prices of 86 anti-cancer scheduled formulations under the National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015).

Further, the NPPA, vide order S.O. 1041(E) dated 27th February, 2019, put a cap on Trade Margin of 42 select non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines under ‘Trade Margin Rationalisation’ Approach. By this approach, the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of 526 brands of these medicines have been reduced by upto 90%. This move has resulted in annual savings of around Rs. 984 crore to the patients. The details of revised prices are available on the website of the NPPA, i.e., nppaindia.nic.in.
