

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 277
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

GROWING CANCER PATIENTS

277. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the MINISTER OF **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Cancer has been identified as the fastest-growing illness, with a year-on-year increase of 10–12 per cent in incidence rates, if so, the steps taken in this regard;
- (b) whether Government is aware that women are disproportionately affected, showing significantly higher rates compared to men, if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the cost of treatment of cancer and easy access to vaccine and affordable medicines, as well as establishing requisite infrastructure for cancer patients in two-tier cities?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c) : Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Cancer Registry Programme (ICMR-NCRP) Data, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the estimated number of incidences of cancer cases in the country for the last five years is given below:

Estimated number of cancer cases in India (2019-2023) – BothSexes*					
Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Estimated Incidence of All sites of cancer Cases in India -	1358415	1392179	1426447	1461427	1496972

ICMR's National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) functions through Population and Hospital Based Cancer Registries across different states in India. Among males, cancers of lung, mouth, esophagus and stomach are the leading sites (major types) across most of the registries. Among females, cancer of the breast is the leading site in 19 registry areas. Cancers of the cervix uteri is the leading site in 7 registry areas. Majority of registries showed an increase in Age Adjusted Incidence Rate (AAR) over time with annual percentage change (APC) varying between (0.1%) in Bhopal to (3.8%) in Kamrup urban for males while (0.0%) in Delhi to (3.8%) in Kamrup urban for females. The decrease in incidence rate for cancer of cervix is seen across all registries including the rural registry at

Barshi while cancer of breast, corpus uteri, ovary, lung cancers among females and colon, rectum, prostate among males shown increase across all registries.

In order to prevent and control major Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including cancer, the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Disease (NP-NCD) was launched by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in 2010 with focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facilities. Under the programme, 770 District NCD Clinics, 233 Cardiac Care Units (CCU), 372 District Day Care Centres and 6410 Community Health Centre have been set up across the country.

Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT), a novel initiative, was launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 15th November, 2015 that aims to provide affordable life-saving medicines, other drugs and medical disposables for treatment of cancer and other diseases

The National Health Mission provides support for improvement in health infrastructure, availability of adequate human resources to health facilities, to improve availability and accessibility to quality health care especially for the underserved and marginalized groups in rural areas. National Free Drugs Service initiative and Free diagnostic Service has been rolled out to ensure availability of essential drugs and diagnostic facilities and reduce out of pocket expenditure of the patients visiting public health facilities. Under NP-NCD, the anti cancer drugs are available in the Essential Drugs List at District Hospitals and Sub Divisional Hospitals.

Cancers are diagnosed and treated at various levels in the health care facilities. The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy. Treatment of major NCDs are also available under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY). This scheme provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to approximately 55 Cr beneficiaries corresponding to 12.37 Crore families constituting the bottom 40% of India's population. The Central Government has also recently approved health coverage for all senior citizens of the age 70 years and above irrespective of their income under PM JAY.

The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has reduced the Customs Duty to Nil and GST rates from 12% to 5% for the three anticancer drugs namely, Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, and Durvalumab vide Notification 30/2024 dated 23.07.2024 {Sr. No III (iv)} and Notification no. 05/2024 dated 08.10.2024, respectively. Accordingly, NPPA issued OM dated 28.10.2024 directing companies to reduce MRP on account of reduction in GST rates and exemption from Custom Duties to pass on the benefit of reduced taxes and duties to consumer.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Scheme was launched by the Government to set up dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. Under PMBJP, 2047 types of medicines and 300 surgical devices have been brought under the basket of the scheme including cardiovascular, anti-cancers, anti-diabetic drugs.
