

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1384
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th MARCH, 2025**

CASES OF CANCER CAUSED BY HEAVY METALS IN RIVER WATER

1384. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the presence of heavy metals in the water of river Ghaggar posing health hazards like cancer;
- (b) the steps taken by the Ministry to treat cases of cancer, emanating from cancer-causing rivers; and
- (c) the details of steps taken towards coping with rising cases of such diseases and allocations made therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): Indian Council of medical Research (ICMR) has informed that a study conducted in 2024 and published in Indian Academy of Sciences on Human health risk assessment revealed that people dwelling near river drains are highly prone to cancer disease and hazard quotients were observed above the threshold limit that poses high non-carcinogenic risks. The results of the study revealed that lead, iron, and aluminium exceeded the permissible limit of the Central Pollution Control Board.

(b) and (c): The Central Government implements Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities Scheme. 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) have been approved under the scheme. National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata have also been setup to provide advance diagnostic and treatment facilities. Cancer treatment facilities have been approved in all 22 new AIIMS with diagnostic, medical and surgical facilities. The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy.

Treatment of cancer is also available under Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY). This scheme provides for Rs. 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care, benefiting 55 crore people (12.37 crore families, bottom 40% of the population). Recently, PM-JAY extended health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70+, regardless of income. In AB PM-JAY, cancer related treatment is provided under more than 200 packages having more than 500

procedures of Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Palliative medicine in the national Health Benefit Package (HBP) master.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Scheme launched to set up dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. As on 28.02.2025, a total of 15,057 PMBJKs have been opened in the country. Under PMBJP, 2047 types of medicines and 300 surgical devices have been brought under the scheme basket products covering all major therapeutic groups, out of which 87 products are available for the treatment of cancer.

Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT), an initiative launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare aims to provide affordable medicines for treatment of cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases. As on 31.01.2025 there are 222 AMRIT Pharmacies spread across 29 States/Union Territories, selling more than 6500 drugs (including cardiovascular, cancer, diabetes, stents, etc), implants, surgical disposables and other consumables at a significant discounts upto 50% on market rates.

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) is implemented by the Department of Health and Family Welfare 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, 372 District Day Care Centres and 6410 NCD Clinics at Community Health Centre have been set up across the country. Details of fund allocation to State/UTs in NP-NCD under National Health Mission from the financial year 2021 to 2023 is at **Annexure**.

Preventive aspect of Cancer is strengthened under Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Arogya Mandir by promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication at the community level. Other initiatives for increasing public awareness by using print, electronic & social media and for promotion of healthy lifestyle includes observation of National Cancer Awareness Day, World Cancer Day, etc. NP-NCD provides financial support under NHM for awareness generation activities for NCDs including Cancer to be undertaken by the States/UTs as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

State/UT wise details of SPIP Approvals for National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) under NHM during the Financial Year 2021-22 to 2023-24

S.No.	State/UT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	56.96	52.46	56.18
2	Andhra Pradesh	4,672.54	6,078.76	5,954.08
3	Arunachal Pradesh	146.45	622.95	779.13
4	Assam	1,258.57	1,306.81	1,222.93
5	Bihar	956.30	8,298.99	7,163.81
6	Chandigarh	12.84	4.15	3.90
7	Chattisgarh	1,619.06	3,506.32	2,974.64
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7.05	57.55	57.99
	Daman & Diu			
9	Delhi	191.15	164.70	335.41
10	Goa	168.97	153.05	145.25
11	Gujarat	2,076.80	4,071.68	3,778.31
12	Haryana	476.86	533.41	406.56
13	Himachal Pradesh	286.28	1,361.00	1,416.50
14	Jammu & Kashmir	805.68	792.00	882.00
15	Jharkhand	2,620.26	1,955.15	1,958.53
16	Karnataka	4,097.12	4,409.74	2,452.35
17	Kerala	4,250.92	7,662.02	5,249.09
18	Ladakh	104.45	273.36	166.43
19	Lakshadweep	24.72	21.21	22.28
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,402.09	4,753.73	2,090.26
21	Maharashtra	976.63	5,311.21	5,147.52
22	Manipur	623.31	722.21	724.30
23	Meghalaya	416.03	407.60	370.59
24	Mizoram	332.26	176.24	176.24
25	Nagaland	305.43	312.26	310.88
26	Odisha	2,158.89	7,442.69	6,067.91
27	Puducherry	126.82	113.10	135.94
28	Punjab	705.42	1,405.93	1,796.11
29	Rajasthan	4,603.49	23,542.92	23,542.92
30	Sikkim	156.78	117.04	85.55

31	Tamil Nadu	4,004.70	8,466.91	10,031.16
32	Telangana	3,139.44	5,272.72	5,145.00
33	Tripura	383.86	496.53	578.92
34	Uttar Pradesh	13,196.18	13,607.82	18,998.70
35	Uttarakhand	597.75	1,127.33	1,167.37
36	West Bengal	3,697.33	3,868.71	5,428.71