

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1398
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th MARCH, 2025**

AFFORDABLE CANCER TREATMENT

1398 SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) the details on the number of cancer-related deaths in the country over the past three years;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the financial burden of cancer treatment on patients, particularly for low- and middle-income families; and
- (c) if so, the details of steps being taken to make cancer treatment more affordable, including subsidies, price regulations on medicines, and expansion of insurance coverage?

ANSWER

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

(a) : As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Cancer Registry Programme (ICMR-NCRP), the estimated mortality due to cancer cases of all sites in the country for the last three years (2022-2024) are given below:

Estimated mortality due to cancer cases in India (2022-2024) – Both Sexes			
Year	2022	2023	2024
Estimated Mortality of all sites of cancer Cases in India - (ICD10:C00-C97)	808558	828252	848266

Source: Population Based Cancer Registries.

(b) and (c): The Central Government has implemented the Strengthening of Tertiary Cancer Care Centres Facilities Scheme in order to enhance the facilities for cancer care at tertiary level. Under the scheme, there is provision of providing one time grant up to Rs. 120 crore for State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and up to Rs. 45 crore for Tertiary Cancer Care Centers (TCCCs) including State share. The funds sharing ratio between Centre and State is 60:40 while for NE and Hilly States the ratio is 90:10. Under this scheme, 19 SCIs and 20 TCCCs have been approved. National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata have also been setup to provide advanced diagnostics and treatment facilities. Cancer treatment facilities have been approved

in all 22 new AIIMS. The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy.

The Jan Aushadi Kendras (JAKs) under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) provides affordable generic medicines, including anti-cancer/oncology medicines. A total of 15,057 JAKs have been opened across the country till 28.02.2025. Under PMBJP scheme, 2,047 medicines and 300 surgicals, medical consumables and devices are available under the scheme product basket covering all major therapeutic groups, out of which 87 products are available for treatment of cancer. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT), initiative provides affordable medicines including for cancer. As on 31.01.2025, there are 222 AMRIT Pharmacies spread across 29 States/Union Territories, selling more than 6500 drugs including Cancer at significant discounts.

Under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), cancer-related treatment is provided for medical, surgical, radiation and palliative oncology across 219 packages. It provides health cover of Rs.5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to approximately 55 Cr beneficiaries. The Government provides one-time financial assistance upto Rs.15 lakh for treatment in government hospitals to poor patients and suffering from cancer through Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) which is a component of the Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN).

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has fixed the ceiling prices of 131 anti-cancer scheduled formulations out of which ceiling prices of 120 formulations are fixed under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2022. NPPA has also fixed retail price of 28 anti-cancer formulations as on 31.01.2025 which are applicable to the applicant manufacturing and marketing company. NPPA put a cap of 30% Trade Margin on 42 selected non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines under 'Trade Margin Rationalization' approach. Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has reduced the customs duty to Nil and GST rates from 12% to 5% for three anti-cancer drugs, namely, Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab.

In Union Budget Announcement 2025-26, it was announced to add 36 life saving drugs and medicines including cancer to the list of medicines fully exempted from Basic Customs Duty.
