

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 17
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 01ST DECEMBER, 2015
CONTROLLING CANCER**

***17. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether researchers from across the world in a public health policy paper have stressed the need for a large scale response to combat the threat from cancer;
- (b) if so, whether the researchers have also stressed the need to employ innovative treatment models and new investment options to control cancer;
- (c) whether the deaths occurring due to cancer in India are increasing and even the cost of treatment is very high; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to fight such a dangerous disease?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 17* FOR 01ST DECEMBER, 2015**

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Research Papers published regularly in Medical Journals have stressed the need for renewed global effort to combat cancer.

A Public Health Policy Paper published in Lancet Medical Journal (October, 2010) has come out with recommendations of building new cancer care infrastructures, setting up of regional and global pricing and procurement mechanisms for cancer drugs and innovative financing mechanisms for cancer care.

(c): Yes Sir. As per the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the number of deaths in India due to cancer are increasing.

The estimated mortality from cancer cases in the year 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 4,65,169, 4,78,185, 4,91,598 and 5,05,428 respectively.

In so far as the cost of treatment is concerned, the treatment in government hospitals is either free or subsidized.

Financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients is available under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN). Besides this, the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) with in Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi has been set up in 2009 where 27 Regional Cancer Centres (RCC) are provided with revolving fund to provide immediate financial assistance up to Rs. 2 lac to BPL cancer patients.

With an objective of making the Cancer drugs available at affordable prices, a Pharmacy "AMRIT "(Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) has been opened at AIIMS, New Delhi on Pilot basis.

The list of medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which is included in the First Schedule of Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), 2013, for price control, also contain anti-cancer drugs.

(d): Step taken by the government for cancer care are:

Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government for improving healthcare including prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Cancer. At present, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM) for interventions upto the district level includes awareness generation screening and early detection. Till September, 2015, 201 District NCD clinics in various parts of the country have been established. To prevent liver cancer, the Government of India has universalised Hepatitis-B Vaccination to all States/UTs since 2010-2011. Government of India has also approved “Tertiary Care for Cancer” Scheme under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) in the year 2013-14. Under the said scheme, Government of India will establish/set up 20 State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and 50 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country. Funds have been released for 5 State Cancer Institutes and 3 Tertiary Care Cancer Centers under the scheme.

In addition to Cancer diagnosis and treatment by the State Governments, the Central Government Institutions such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdurjung Hospital, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh, JIPMER Puducherry, Chittaranjan National Cancer

Institute, Kolkata, etc. also provide facilities for diagnosis and treatment of Cancer.

National Cancer Institute (NCI), Jhajjar, has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 2035 crores. The implementation of the project is at an initial stage. Setting up of second campus of CNCI (Chittranjan National Cancer Institute), Kolkata is also approved at the cost of Rs.534 Cr.

ICMR conducts research in cancer. India has also signed an MOU with National Cancer Institute of USA in which ICMR, AIIMS and DBT (Deptt. of Biotechnology) are the parties for cooperation on Cancer Research.