

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2194
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8th August, 2023**

HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURE FOR CANCER TREATMENT

**2194. SMT. SULATA DEO:
SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:**

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

- (a) whether Government has followed up on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Health (2022-23) to address the high Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) for the treatment of cancer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has an action plan to reduce the OOPE for cancer treatment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (d); Dept. of Pharmaceuticals has informed that based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee of MoHFW, 42 Anti-Cancer non-scheduled formulations were selected for Trade Margin Rationalization (TMR). Under the TMR Approach, margins were capped at 30%, vide order dated 27th February, 2019. The Pilot was taken up as Proof of Concept, invoking provision of Para 19 of DPCO, 2013, under extra-ordinary circumstances in public interest.

The move resulted in reduction of MRP of 526 brands of medicines. A reduction of up to 90% of old MRP was reported along with annual saving of approx. ₹ 984 crores to the patients.

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.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is being implemented by Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), under Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, for making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras", so as to

reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare. A total of 1616 drugs (including 50 anticancer/oncology medicines) and 250 surgicals and consumables are currently included in the product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). More than 8700 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been set up under the scheme.

National Health Authority (NHA) has informed that the Governing Board of the NHA has approved the inclusion of diagnostic tests which are useful for staging and treatment planning in the confirmed cases of cancer. The diagnostic packages introduced are with respect to Breast, Cervical and Oral cancers. This will help beneficiaries in reducing out-of-pocket expenditure.

Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), health assurance/insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary or tertiary care hospitalization to over 60 Crores beneficiaries is provided. The treatment packages under AB-PMJAY are very comprehensive covering various treatment related aspects such as drugs and diagnostic services. Treatment of cancer is also available under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
