

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1052
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th DECEMBER, 2023

CANCER SCREENING MECHANISM

1052. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) the data on the number of mortality and survival rate of cervix cancer patients in the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has taken steps to increase accessibility & affordability to screening and spread awareness about cervical cancer;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether effective policy diffusion techniques have been employed for more usage of the cervical cancer vaccine and ensuring its correct utilization;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons for the delay in addressing the issue of limited vaccination for cervical cancer ?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Cancer Registry Program, the estimated number of mortality of cervical cancer cases in the country during 2017 to 2021 is given below.

Estimated mortality of cancer cases in India (2017-2021) – Cervical Cancer					
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Estimated Mortality of cancer Cases	30609	31425	32246	33095	33938

(b) to (d): The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), as part of National Health Mission (NHM), based on the proposals received from the States/UTs and subject to the resource envelope. The programme focusses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion & awareness generation for prevention, early diagnosis, management and referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility

for treatment of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including cancer. For activities upto district level and below, States are given financial assistance under NHM in the ratio of 60:40 (90:10 in case of NE and hilly States). Under NP-NCD, 753 District NCD Clinics, 355 District Day Care Centres, and 6237 Community Health Center NCD Clinics have been setup.

A population-based initiative for prevention, control and screening for common NCDs i.e. diabetes, hypertension and common cancers has been rolled out in the country under NHM and also as a part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care. Under the initiative, persons more than 30 years of age are targeted for their screening for the three common cancers i.e. cervical, breast and oral. Screening of these common cancers is an integral part of service delivery under Ayushman Arogya Mandir.

Preventive aspect of Cancer is strengthened under Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Arogya Mandir scheme, by promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication at the community level. Other initiatives for increasing public awareness about Cancer and for promotion of healthy lifestyle includes observation of National Cancer Awareness Day and World Cancer Day and use of print, electronic and social media for community awareness. Furthermore, healthy eating is also promoted through FSSAI. Fit India movement is implemented by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and various Yoga related activities are carried out by Ministry of AYUSH. In addition, NP-NCD gives financial support under NHM for awareness generation (IEC) activities for Cancer to be undertaken by the States/UTs as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

(e) to (g): National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) is India's apex technical advisory body to advise Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on immunization. In June 2022, after the evaluation of the fresh evidence on cervical cancer burden, evidence on effectiveness of single dose of HPV vaccine, clinical trial data and experience of the Government of Sikkim on the introduction of HPV vaccine, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) recommended the introduction of HPV vaccine in the Universal Immunization Program with a one-time catch-up for 9 to 14-year-old adolescent girls followed with routine introduction at 9 years.

The introduction and nationwide scale up of HPV Vaccine is planned in a phased manner over a period of 3 to 4 years subject to availability of sufficient vaccine doses.
