

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1887
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th DECEMBER, 2023**

AFFORDABLE HIGH-QUALITY CANCER CARE

**1887. MS. KAVITA PATIDAR:
SHRI JAGGESH:
SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH:
DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:
DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:
MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:
DR. ANIL JAIN:
SHRI IRANNA KADADI::**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing specific measures to ensure that patients receive high-quality cancer care at a cost that is affordable;
- (b) the information on the specific research outputs introduced in the field of cancer care over the past four years; and
- (c) the information on the manner in which the National Cancer Grid is involved in cancer care, along with a list of centres, research institutes, State-wise, that are part of its network?

ANSWER

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

(a): 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, 744 District NCD Clinics, 355 District Day Care Centres, and 6237 Community Health Center NCD Clinics have been setup.

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 said scheme.

National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata have also been set up. All new AIIMS and 13 upgraded existing Government Medical Colleges/Institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY) also focus on treatment of cancer.

Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), health 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.

The NPPA has fixed the ceiling prices of 86 anti-cancer scheduled formulations under the National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015) for making these medicines affordable for patients. It, vide order S.O. 1041 [E] dated 27th February 2019, has put a cap on Trade Margin of 42 selected non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines on pilot basis under 'Trade Margin Rationalization' approach. Under this approach, the Maximum Retail Price [MRP] of 526 brands of anti-cancer medicines have been reduced by upto 90%.

Quality generic medicines are made available at affordable prices to all, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in collaboration with the State Governments. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacy stores have been set up in some hospitals/institutions, with an objective to make available Cancer drugs at a substantial discount vis-à-vis the Maximum Retail Price.

(b): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is conducting research on cancer through its institutes, various projects and cancer consortium. The details are provided below:

1. The project on "screening and early detection of cervical, breast and oral cancer in Cachar, Assam: a pilot project (2017-20)" demonstrated that front line health workers like ASHAs are a potent workforce to promote and conduct home based screening. Compliance to home screening is found to be high and a mobile application was developed.
2. Through project on "strengthening state non-communicable disease programme for early detection of breast cancer involving strategic education and awareness among the women: a Joint Programme of State Government and ICMR-Desert Medicine Research Centre, Jodhpur, referral chain for diagnosis and treatment of suspected cases at medical colleges/institutes [National Institute for Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases (NIIRNCD), Jodhpur] was created and women were trained for breast self-examination.

3. ICMR has initiated project on "Comparative Study of Genetic, Clinical and Epidemiological Factors of Breast Cancer in Rural and Urban Area of India" in rural and urban women of north and south parts of country primarily looking at risk factors.
4. Indian Childhood Collaborative Leukemia (ICiCLE) Group Multi-centric Study for children with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) showed improvement in outcome of children at low risk using low intense therapy based on molecular tools.
5. Study on concurrent evaluation of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine program and vaccine acceptance among adolescent girls in Punjab depicted that acceptance for vaccine was > 98% in girls and > 96% among parents of unvaccinated children.
6. ICMR has set up a registry of Hereditary, Breast and Ovarian Cancers (HBOC) to collate, curate and share the mutational profile of HBOC patients along with their clinical, treatment and outcome details in a de-identified manner.

Tata Memorial Centre has conducted multiple research and outputs are published in renowned journals. The research was conducted to develop novel treatment strategies, improved treatment and delivery mechanisms, cost-effective treatment and technologies, population-based low-cost interventions for prevention and early detection of cancer and translational research.

(c): National Cancer Grid (NCG) was created in 2012 with the broad vision of creating uniform standards of cancer care across India. Seven years later, it has grown to a large network of 310 cancer centres, research institutes, patient advocacy groups, charitable organizations and professional societies. Between the member organizations of the NCG, the network treats over 8,00,000 new patients with cancer annually. Incorporating all stakeholders of cancer care in India, it is a strong, unified and powerful voice in the fight against cancer.

Some of the major activities of the NCG include 1) Uniform standards of care — NCG Consensus Guidelines, 2) External Quality Assurance Schemes (EQAS), 3) Second opinion service for patients — "Navya", 4) NCG Virtual Tumor Boards, and 5) NCG funded multicentric collaborative research.

The details of NCG centers arranged state wise are available on the web site: <https://www.ncgindia.org/hospitals-and-institutions/members>