

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 934
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2024**

FREE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASES

934. DR. BHIM SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the treatment of chronic diseases like cancer, neuro, etc. costs lakhs of rupees even in Government hospitals and the economically weaker sections and middle class are unable to afford treatment; and
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to make arrangements for completely free treatment of these diseases, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): 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). NP-NCD focuses on screening and diagnosis of Non-Communicable Diseases such as Cancer, Diabetes, Hypertension, Stroke, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD), Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases (NAFLD), Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), etc. NCDs are diagnosed and treated at various levels in the health care facilities. The programme includes the following:

- i. Strengthening infrastructure
- ii. Human resource development
- iii. Health promotion
- iv. Screening
- v. Early diagnosis, management
- vi. Referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility

Under NP-NCD, 753 District NCD Clinics, 222 District Cardiac Care Units, 356 District Day Care Centres and 6238 Community Health Center NCD Clinics has been set up so far.

In order to enhance the capacity for treatment of cancer in the country the following steps have been taken by the Central Government:

- 1) The Central Government has approved 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary

Cancer Care Centres (TCCCs) under the Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Centres Facilities Scheme in order to enhance the facilities for tertiary care of cancer.

- 2) There is also focus on NCDs including cancer in all new AIIMS and 13 upgraded existing Government Medical Colleges/Institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY).
- 3) Setting up of National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata are also steps in this direction. All these enhance the capacity for treatment of cancer in the country.

To facilitate accessible and affordable healthcare and treatment, the following steps have been taken:

- 1) Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization is provided to over 55 Crore beneficiaries. The treatment packages under AB-PMJAY are very comprehensive covering various treatment related aspects such as drugs and diagnostic services.
- 2) Quality generic medicines are made available at affordable prices to all, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in collaboration with the State Governments.
- 3) Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacy stores have been set up in 29 States/UTs, to make available drugs at a substantial discount vis-à-vis the Maximum Retail Price. As on 15.06.2024, 206 AMRIT Pharmacies have been setup.
