

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 325
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST APRIL, 2025**

ACCESSIBILITY TO RCCS

325 SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) how accessible the Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) are to patients, especially in rural and remote areas of Punjab and other States; and
- (b) the steps being taken to increase awareness and access to Cancer care services for marginalized communities, including economically disadvantaged and rural populations?

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

- (a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 325 * FOR 1ST APRIL, 2025**

(a) In the State of Punjab, Government Medical College, Amritsar has been approved as a State Cancer Institute (SCI) and Civil Hospital, Fazilka has been approved as Tertiary Cancer Care Center (TCCC) under the 'Strengthening of Tertiary Cancer Care Centers Facilities Scheme' to enhance the facilities for cancer care at tertiary level.

Under the aforesaid scheme, support is provided to States and Union Territories for setting up of SCIs and TCCCs across the country. 39 institutions (19 SCI and 20 TCCC) have been approved. 15 SCIs and 18 TCCCs are functional and offering patient care services.

SCI at Government Medical College, Amritsar is functional and accessible to patients.

(b) The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, provides technical and financial support to the States and Union Territories under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) as part of National Health Mission (NHM). The programme focusses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, early diagnosis, referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility for treatment and management and health promotion and awareness generation for prevention, of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including cancer.

A population-based initiative for screening, management and prevention of common NCDs including cancer has been rolled out as a part of comprehensive Primary Health Care in the country under NHM.

Prevention, control & screening services are being provided through trained frontline workers [Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) & Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM)], and the referral support and continuity of care is ensured through Community Health Centres, District Hospitals and other tertiary care institutions. Population Based Screening can help in better management of diseases by the way of early stage of detection, follow up and treatment adherence.

Further initiatives for increasing public awareness about NCDs including cancer and for promotion of healthy lifestyle include observation of National Cancer Awareness day, use of print, electronic and social media for continued community awareness. Under NP-NCD financial support of ₹3 -5 lakhs is provided at District level and ₹50-70 lakhs at State level under NHM for awareness generation activities for NCDs to be undertaken by the States and Union Territories as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

Teleconsultation facility is available for seeking expert opinion from District Hospitals and Tertiary care Hospitals for those patients who are suspected for any cancer related ailments after screening. Continuum of care is ensured through referral to Tertiary care facilities and Medical hospitals

empaneled under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). This scheme provides for ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care. Recently, PM-JAY extended health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 plus, regardless of income.

As per announcement of Union Budget 2025-26, the government plans to set up Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) in all district hospitals in the next three years, out of which 200 centres are planned to be set up in 2025-2026.

There are 372 District Day Care Centres providing chemotherapy across the country. Cancer treatment facilities have been approved in all 22 new AIIMS with diagnostic, medical and surgical facilities. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Jhajjar, with 1,460 patient care beds and advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities and the second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata, with 460 beds have been set up by the Government to provide super-specialty care. Further, under the Department of Atomic Energy cancer centres have been established in Kharghar, Varanasi (two), Guwahati, Sangrur, Mullanpur, Visakhapatnam, Chandigarh and Muzaffarpur. The Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai is also providing services for cancer care.

In PM-JAY, cancer related treatment including breast, oral and cervical cancer is provided under more than 200 packages having more than 500 procedures of Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Palliative Medicine in the national Health Benefit Package (HBP) master.

As per centrally available data, 75.81% of more than 68 lakh cancer treatments worth over Rs 13,000 crore under PMJAY were availed by beneficiaries from rural areas. Further, 76.32% of more than 4.5 lakh targeted therapies for cancer care worth over ₹985 crore under PMJAY were availed by rural beneficiaries.

Quality generic medicines including cancer drugs are made available at 50% to 80% cheaper rates than branded medicines through Jan Aushadhi Stores and Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacies.
