

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2840  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**AFFORDABLE TREATMENT OF LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES**

**2840. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:**

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

- (a) whether Government plans to initiate a scheme in the country to make treatment of life-threatening diseases like Cancer, liver Cirrhosis, brain tumor etc affordable to the common man, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the district hospitals in the country are equipped with facilities to treat life-threatening diseases at an affordable rate for the common man;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) provides financial and technical assistance to States and Union Territories with a focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resources, screening, early diagnosis, referrals, treatment, and awareness for NCD prevention.

The Central Government has implemented the Strengthening of Tertiary Cancer Care Centres Facilities Scheme in order to enhance the facilities for cancer care at tertiary level. 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary Cancer Care Centers (TCCCs) have been set up in different parts of the country to provide advanced health care.

Further, 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. Also, cancer treatment facilities have been approved in all 22 new AIIMS with diagnostic, medical and surgical facilities.

There are 372 District Day Care Centres in district hospitals providing chemotherapy across the country. Further, as per announcement of Union Budget 2025-26, the government aims to establish 200 Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) in district hospitals across India.

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) interventions have been integrated within the broadstructure of NP-NCD in 2021 and its operational guideline were developed. These operationalguidelines for NAFLD have been revised in 2024 focussed on health promotion, early detection and advocating a multidisciplinary approach for comprehensive patient care.

Treatment of life threatening diseases is also available under Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri

Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY). This scheme provides for ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care, benefiting 55 crore people. It covers procedures relating to chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and other non-communicable diseases.

One-time financial assistance upto ₹15 lakh is provided under the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPPF) for treatment of poor patients living below poverty lines and suffering from cancer.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), National Free Drugs Initiative and Free Diagnostic Services ensure essential medicines and diagnostics at public health facilities, reducing out-of-pocket expenses. Anti-cancer drugs are included in the Essential Drugs List at District and Sub-Divisional Hospitals under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Scheme was launched to set up dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. Under PMBJP, 2047 types of medicines and 300 surgical devices have been brought under the basket of the scheme, of which 87 products are for cancer treatment.

Various measures have been taken to make cancer drugs affordable and accessible to the masses, including, among others, the following:

1. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed ceiling prices of 131 scheduled anti-cancer formulations under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). These include 111 formulations whose prices were fixed under the NLEM, 2015. Refixation of the same under NLEM, 2022 has resulted in reduction of around 21% from the ceiling prices fixed under NLEM, 2015, leading to annual savings of around ₹294.34 crore to patients.
2. NPPA has fixed retail prices of 28 anti-cancer formulations of applicant manufacturing and marketing companies, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 provisions relating to fixing of retail prices of new drugs.
3. In addition, NPPA has put a cap of 30% trade margin on 42 non-scheduled anticancer medicines, in public interest, which has resulted in reduction of MRP of 526 brands of these medicines by an average of around 50% and annual savings of around ₹984 crore to patients.
4. Government reduced customs duty to nil and GST rates from 12% to 5% for three anti-cancer drugs in the financial year (FY) 2024-25 and NPPA has issued directions to companies to reduce MRP to pass on the tax benefit to consumers.
5. Exemption/concessions in customs duty on identified anti-cancer medicines has also been announced in the budget for FY 2025-26.

\*\*\*\*\*