

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.295
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

CANCER DRUGS UNDER NATIONAL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

295: SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:

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

- (a) the list of essential cancer drugs currently available under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and those covered under public health insurance schemes;
- (b) the average cost of cancer treatment, including chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and targeted therapy, in Government-run hospitals compared to private hospitals; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has conducted any studies on the affordability and accessibility of life-saving cancer drugs for the economically disadvantaged sections of the population?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): List of medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) which are included in the First Schedule of Drug Pricing Control Order (DPCO), 2013 also contain drugs used for the treatment of Cancer for which ceiling prices have been fixed. The list is available at www.cdsc.gov.in

The cost of treatment of Cancer depends on various factors including, inter alia, the stage of diagnosis, type and site of cancer and type of treatment. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments under free drug service initiative and National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) under National Health Mission based on the proposals received from the States/UTs and subject to the resource envelope.

To make available Cancer drugs affordable and accessible at discounted prices, Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlets have been opened at various hospitals/institutions. Besides, Jan Aushadhi stores set up by Department of Pharmaceuticals provide generic drugs including anti-cancer drugs at affordable prices.

In addition to Cancer diagnosis and treatment by the State Governments Health Institutions, Central Government Institutions also provide facilities for diagnosis and treatment of Cancer. Central Government is also implementing Strengthening of Tertiary Care of Cancer Scheme in order to enhance the facilities for tertiary care of cancer. Oncology is focus area in many of upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna and new AIIMS.

Financial assistance is provided by Central Government for life threatening diseases, under the schemes Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF), State Illness Assistance Fund (SIAF) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG).
