

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 919  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025**

**AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF BREAST CANCER TREATMENT**

**919. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the reported increase of 50,000 breast cancer cases per year over the past decade in the country, if so, the primary factors contributing to this rise;
- (b) whether Government has taken steps to promote early detection and regular screening for breast cancer, especially in rural and underserved areas;
- (c) whether Government has taken measures to ensure affordability and accessibility of breast cancer treatment, particularly in Government hospitals; and
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to increase the number of oncologists, nurses, and technicians to handle the rising breast cancer burden especially in Government hospitals?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): As per the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Cancer Registry Programme (ICMR - NCRP) , the estimated number of incidence of breast cancer cases over the past decade are as under:

| <b>Estimated number of cancer cases in India - Breast cancer - (2019-2023)</b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Year</b>  | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2023</b> |
| Estimated Incidence of Breast cancer cases in India                            | 65275       | 67053       | 68863       | 70707       | 72580       | 74481       | 76414       | 78387       | 80390       | 82429       |

ICMR has informed that besides access and availability of improved diagnostic techniques for detection of Cancer, increased life expectancy, growing share of geriatric population, higher health consciousness and improved health seeking behaviour have contributed to registration of more number of Cancer cases in India.

(b) and (c): In order to prevent and control major Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including breast cancer, the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Disease (NP-NCD) is implemented by the Department of Health and Family Welfare with focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis,

management and referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facilities. Under the programme, 770 District NCD Clinics, 372 District Day Care Centres and 6410 NCD Clinics at Community Health Centre have been set up across the country.

Prevention, control & screening services are provided through trained frontline workers [Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) & Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM)] and the referral support for continuity of care through Community Health Centres, District Hospitals and other tertiary care institutions.

The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy. Treatment of major NCDs are also available under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY). This scheme provides for Rs. 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care, benefiting 55 crore people (12.37 crore families, bottom 40% of the population). Recently, PM-JAY extended health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70+, regardless of income.

The Health Benefit Package (HBP) of AB PM-JAY covers 1961 procedures across 27 specialties, including cancer. Treatments are available at 30,072 empaneled hospitals.

The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) aims to provide affordable generic medicines through Janaushadhi Kendras including anti-cancer drugs. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT), by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides affordable medicines including anti-cancer drugs.

Financial assistance is provided to BPL patients with life-threatening diseases, including cancer, under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG). HMDG offers up to ₹1.25 lakh, while RAN provides up to ₹15 lakh.

(d): As per Health Dynamics of India (Infrastructure & Human Resources) 2022-2023 Report of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the details regarding posts sanctioned and in position of doctors, nurses and technicians is available in the public domain at following:

[https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/Health%20Dynamics%20of%20India%20%28Infrastructure%20%26%20Human%20Resources%29%202022-23\\_RE%20%281%29.pdf](https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/Health%20Dynamics%20of%20India%20%28Infrastructure%20%26%20Human%20Resources%29%202022-23_RE%20%281%29.pdf)

Health is a state subject hence recruitment of oncologist, nurses and technician are done as per the State/UTs requirement. The Government has increased number of medical colleges, accordingly Bachelor of Medicines and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Post Graduation (PG) seats have also been increased subsequently to meet the requirement.

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