

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 28
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2025**

PROMOTING USE OF PASSIVE EUTHANASIA

28 SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:

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

- (a) the specific measures taken to implement and promote passive euthanasia and living wills in the healthcare system, in light of the 2018 Supreme Court judgment;
- (b) whether Government integrated living wills into hospital protocols, and medical professionals are being trained to respect patients' end-of-life preferences;
- (c) whether there is a timeline for launching a nationwide awareness campaign to educate citizens about their right to create a living will; and
- (d) whether ethical safeguards such as mandatory review by a medical board are being established to prevent misuse of living wills?

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 28 FOR 22ND JULY, 2025**

(a) to (d): In the 2018 Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement in *Common Cause Vs Union of India*, the Hon'ble Court laid down specific guidelines for executing Advance Directives and implementing passive euthanasia. The Hon'ble Court in the Miscellaneous Application No. 1699 of 2019 in *Common Cause Vs Union of India*, *Common Cause Vs Union of India* 2023, relaxed these guidelines by simplifying the procedure for executing the same. These modifications aimed to make the process more accessible for terminally ill patients to exercise their right to die with dignity, by refusing life-prolonging treatment.

'Health' being a State subject, it is the primary responsibility of the States/UTs to implement passive euthanasia and living wills in the healthcare system by incorporating them into hospital protocols, to ensure that medical professionals are trained to respect patients' end-of-life preferences and also to establish ethical safeguards such as mandatory review by a medical board in accordance with Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement.