

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1081
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2025**

ALLOCATION OF FUND FOR CANCER TREATMENT

1081 SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

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

- (a) the impact of the initiative taken by Government to provide ₹3,200 crore for establishing cancer treatment facilities in all district hospitals for making cancer care accessible in rural and underserved areas;
- (b) the role played by district-level cancer centres in reducing the burden on tertiary care hospitals;
- (c) the impact of this investment on Government's commitment towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level; and
- (d) the ways in which this initiative contributes to early detection and treatment of cancer across the country?

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

(a) and (b): The Government of India has implemented 'Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities Scheme under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) for setting up of 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country. Further, as per the announcement of Union Budget 2025-26, the government plans to set up Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) in district hospitals in the next 3 years, out of which 200 centres are to be set up in Financial Year 2025-26.

DCCCs deliver chemotherapy and supportive cancer treatments in an outpatient setting. Enhanced accessibility of chemotherapy in rural and underserved areas ensures that patients no longer need to travel long distances for treatment. This initiative is significant for rural and underserved populations to improve access to advanced cancer care. As a result, families experience financial relief through reduced travel expenses and shorter hospital stays, which lead to lower out-of-pocket expenditure.

DCCCs help reduce the patient load on tertiary cancer hospitals by enabling timely interventions at the district level. By managing suitable cases locally, DCCCs allow tertiary institutes to focus on complex and high-risk cases, thereby reducing waiting times and enhancing the overall quality of care. Offering services such as chemotherapy, supportive care, and follow-up within the district, these centres streamline patient flow and contribute significantly to decongesting tertiary healthcare facilities.

(c) and (d): This initiative plays a pivotal role in advancing the Government's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level by embedding cancer care services within existing district hospitals. With the establishment of Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs), the initiative ensures the availability of essential infrastructure for cancer care.

This decentralised model not only expands physical infrastructure but also builds institutional and human capacity at the district level, contributing to long-term system strengthening under the National Health Mission(NHM).

Furthermore, the initiative significantly contributes to early detection and timely treatment of cancer across the country. While DCCCs are primarily treatment units, they are strategically integrated with ongoing population-based screening efforts under NHM at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and other health facilities. Individuals identified as presumptive cancer cases through frontline screening are referred for diagnosis and further management to tertiary Institutes and subsequently linked to DCCCs for follow-up therapy. By bringing cancer care closer to patients, the initiative reduces delays in treatment initiation, follow-up and prevents treatment abandonment. Collectively, these interventions facilitate early detection and improve cancer care services.
