

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 268
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND July, 2025**

USAGES OF CANCER TRAIN FOR CANCER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN PUNJAB

268. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

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

- (a) the number of cancer patients and their attendants who have travelled via the "cancer train" for treatment outside Punjab, for the past five years, year-wise;
- (b) the number and details of cancer hospitals sanctioned and operationalised in Punjab during the last five years to provide affordable cancer care;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized for setting up and running these hospitals, including their current operational status;
- (d) the details of posts created in these hospitals, role-wise, along with current vacancy; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to reduce patient travel and improve access to affordable cancer treatment within Punjab?

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

(a) Ministry of Railways has informed that no train with the name "cancer train" is operational on Indian Railways.

(b) to (e) The Central Government is implementing the 'Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities'scheme. Under this scheme, support is provided to States and Union Territories for the establishment of State Cancer Institutes (SCIs)and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) across the country. The maximum permissible assistance is Rs. 120 crore for each SCI and Rs. 45 crore for each TCCC. Till date, a total of 39 institutions (comprising 19 SCIs and 20 TCCCs) have been approved under the scheme, including the SCI at Government Medical College, Amritsar, and the TCCC at Civil Hospital, Fazilka. Radiotherapy and chemotherapy services are available at Government Medical College, Amritsar, while chemotherapy services are available at Civil Hospital, Fazilka.

Tata Memorial Centre under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India has established Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital (H BCH), Sangrur in Civil Hospital campus, Sangrur, Punjab and Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (H BCH & RC), New Chandigarh, Punjab, which are functional.

Under the Mukh Mantri Punjab Cancer Rahat Kosh Scheme (MMPCRKS), cancer treatment services are further extended through Government Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot, Government Medical College & Hospital, Patiala and Advanced Cancer Diagnostic Institute, Bathinda.

Under the Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities Scheme the fund status of the SCI and TCCC are as below :-

S.no	Name of the Institute	Total Amount recommended by Standing Committee	Central Share	Total amount released
1	Government Medical College, Amritsar	Rs. 114.61 crores	Rs. 68.766 crores	Rs. 55.8765 crores
2.	Civil Hospital, Fazilka	Rs. 44.71 crores	Rs. 26.826 crores	Rs. 20.119 crores

The Tata Memorial Centre has informed that the sanctioned budget of TMC's Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital (HBCH), Sangrur & Homi Bhabha Cancer Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (HBCH & RC), New Chandigarh, Punjab is Rs. 663.71 Crore and Rs. 602.23 Crore has been utilized.

The details of sanctioned posts in the respective institutions are provided in the annexures as follows:

- Government Medical College, Amritsar : **Annexure-I**
- Civil Hospital, Fazilka: **Annexure-II**
- HBCH, Sangrur and HBCH&RC, New Chandigarh : **Annexure-III**

Under Mukh Mantri Punjab Raahat Kosh Scheme(MMPCRKS) financial assistance up to Rs. 1.5 Lakhs is provided for the treatment of each cancer patient (resident of Punjab) through the empanelled hospitals.

Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), health assurance/ insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary or tertiary care hospitalization is provided. Recently, AB PM-JAY has been extended to all senior citizens aged 70 plus, regardless of income status. The treatment packages under AB-PMJAY are very comprehensive covering various treatment related aspects such as drugs and diagnostic services.

National Free Drugs Service initiative and Free Diagnostic Service initiative under NHM has been rolled out to ensure availability of essential drugs and diagnostic facilities and reduce out of pocket expenditure of the patients.

The Jan Aushadi Kendras (JAKs) under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) provides affordable generic medicines, including anti-cancer medicines. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) initiative provides affordable medicines including for cancer.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has fixed the ceiling prices of 131 anti-cancer scheduled formulations. NPPA has also fixed retail price of 28 anti-cancer formulations. Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has reduced the customs duty to Nil and GST rates from 12% to 5% for three anti-cancer drugs in Financial Year 2024-25.

ANNEXURE-I

Details of Posts at Government Medical College, Amritsar

Radiotherapy Department			
Name of Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Professor	01	01	00
Associate Professor	01	01	00
Assistant Professor	03	01	02
Senior Resident	03	00	03
Medical Physicist	05	03	02
Radiotherapy Technician	09	09	00
Surgical Oncology Department			
Name of Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Professor	01	01	00
Associate Professor	01	00	01
Assistant Professor	02	01	01
Senior Resident	03	02	01
Nuclear Medicine Department			
Name of Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Professor	01	00	01
Associate Professor	01	00	01
Assistant Professor	02	00	02
Senior Resident	03	00	03
Medical Oncology Department			
Name of Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Professor	01	00	01
Associate Professor	01	00	01
Assistant Professor	02	00	02
Senior Resident	03	00	03
GrandTotal	43	19	24

ANNEXURE - II

Details of Posts at Civil Hospital, Fazilka

Name of The Department	Name of The Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Bio Chemistry	Assistant Professor	2	0	2
Pathology	Associate Professor	1	0	1
	Assistant Professor	2	0	2
Orthopedics	Assistant Professor	1	0	1
	Professor	2	1	1
ENT	Associate Professor	1	0	1
	Assistant Professor	2	0	2
OBG	Associate Professor	1	0	1
	Assistant Professor	2	1	1
Anesthesiology	Professor	1	0	1
	Associate Professor	1	0	1
	Assistant Professor	2	0	2
Dentistry	Assistant Professor	1	0	1
Radiotherapy/ Radation Oncology	Professor	1	0	1
	Associate Professor	1	0	1
	Assistant Professor	2	2	0
Surgical Oncology	Professor	1	0	1
	Associate Professor	1	0	1
	Assistant Professor	2	0	2
Preventive Oncology	Assistant Professor	1	0	1
Total		28	04	24

ANNEXURE - III**Details of Posts at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital (HBCH), Sangrur & Homi Bhabha Cancer Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (HBCH & RC), New Chandigarh, Punjab**

Sr. No.	Category	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
1	Medical	69	42	27
2	Resident	70	31	39
3	Scientific	40	15	25
4	Technical	118	39	79
5.	Nursing	340	117	223
	Total	637	244	393