

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 280  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2025**

**BENEFICIARIES UNDER NPPC**

**280 SHRI SANJAY SETH:**

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

- (a) the detailed data on the number of beneficiaries under the National Programme for Palliative Care (NPPC) in 2025 in comparison to previous years;
- (b) the steps taken to improve the integration of palliative care into the education curriculum under NPPC in 2025;
- (c) the impact of NPPC on influencing the quality of patient care in 2025;
- (d) the detailed data on the training of health professionals in palliative care under NPPC in 2025; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve public awareness and promote community-led initiatives in palliative care under NPPC in 2025?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the National Programme for Palliative Care (NPPC) under the National Health Mission with the objective to provide and integrate palliative care services at various levels of public healthcare, particularly at district and sub-district levels.

As per the Health Management Information System (HMIS), the number of beneficiaries under NPPC has shown a steady increase in recent years. The comparative data are as follows:

Year	Outpatient Care	Home Visits	Inpatient Care
2023–24	37,61,188	17,50,815	3,98,021
2024–25	55,35,296	25,00,986	4,26,037
2025–26 (April to June 2025)	5,59,323	7,55,251	1,19,713

The integration of palliative care services under NPPC has positively impacted the quality of patient care by increasing access to outpatient, inpatient, and home-based palliative care, especially for patients suffering from life-limiting conditions.

Palliative care was recognized as a medical subspecialty by the erstwhile Medical Council of India (MCI) in 2010. Specialist training in Palliative Medicine (MD Palliative Medicine) is provided as a three-year supervised postgraduate program in National Medical Commission (NMC) recognized institutions.

Furthermore, the Indian Nursing Council (INC) has included a 20-hour mandatory module on palliative care in the 4th semester (second year) of the B.Sc. Nursing curriculum to enhance knowledge and sensitivity among nursing students.

(d): In 2024–25 (till February 2025), 21,726-Medical Officers, 23,133-Nurses, 58,079-Community Health Officers (CHOs), 1,58,210-Accredited Social Health Activist(ASHA)/Auxiliary Nurse Midwife(ANM) were trained under NPPC. Also, 4,033 Staff Nurses and 2,152 Medical Officers have completed Certificate Course in Palliative Care.

(e):To enhance public awareness and promote community-led initiatives, awareness activities are being organized by State Palliative Care Cells and District Units. These include:

- i. Observance of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) on 12th October 2024 with nationwide campaigns.
- ii. Dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials through social media platforms of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- iii. Awareness activities were conducted highlighting importance of early palliative care intervention, recognition of caregivers' contributions and community and family participation in spreading awareness about available services under NPPC.