

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3013  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025**

**ENHANCEMENT OF CANCER PREVENTION STRATEGIES IN RURAL  
AREAS OF PUNJAB**

**3013. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:**

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

- (a) the specific steps taken by Government to enhance cancer prevention strategies, particularly in rural and underserved areas of Punjab and other States;
- (b) the initiatives to promote and expand HPV vaccination for cervical cancer prevention, including availability, affordability, and awareness campaigns; and
- (c) Government's efforts to strengthen public awareness on lifestyle modifications, tobacco control, and other preventive measures to reduce the overall cancer burden in the country?

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

(a) & (b): Health is a State subject. However, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to States and Union Territories across the country under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) as part of the National Health Mission (NHM). The Programme focuses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, screening, early diagnosis, referral, treatment, and health promotion for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including hypertension and diabetes as per need and proposal from the State and Union Territories. Under the programme, 770 District NCD Clinics, 364 Day Care Cancer Centres and 6410 NCD clinics at Community Health Centres have been set up.

Further, under the 'Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities Scheme' 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) have been set up across the country including Government Medical College, Amritsar as a SCI and Civil Hospital, Fazilka as TCCC in Punjab. The National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and the second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata have been set up to provide advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities. Cancer treatment facilities have also been approved in all 22 new All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS).

As per the announcement of Union Budget 2025-26, more than 200 Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) have been approved for establishment across the country including 6 in Punjab to strengthen decentralized cancer care by aligning infrastructure development with patient needs

At the community, the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) does risk assessment of individuals in the age groups of thirty years and above by using Community Based Assessment Checklist (CBAC) forms and bring the individuals to Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) for screening of common NCDs including cancer. A population-based initiative for prevention, control and screening for common NCDs including cancer has been rolled out in the country under National Health Mission (NHM) as a part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care. Under the initiative, persons more than 30 years of age are targeted for their screening of oral, breast and cervical cancer across the country including Punjab.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated the capacity building exercise of medical and paramedical staff for the cervical cancer vaccine for all the States and Union Territories.

(c): Preventive aspect of NCDs is strengthened under Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Arogya Mandir, by promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication at the community level. Further initiatives for increasing public awareness about NCDs and for promotion of healthy lifestyle includes use of print, electronic and social media for continued community awareness.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has taken various measures to strengthen public awareness on tobacco control under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP). NTCP aims to discourage the use of tobacco, create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption through regular and sustained public awareness campaigns and ensure effective implementation of the provisions under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019.

The MoHFW has launched an annual 60-Day Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign in 2023 covering all States and Union Territories with the aim to generate awareness amongst young people about the dangers of tobacco consumption and empowering them to make healthy choices. One of the key strategies of this campaign involves leveraging social media engagement to educate and empower youth about the harmful effects of tobacco.

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