

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2676
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2026**

CANCER CARE INFRASTRUCTURE IN PUNJAB

2676. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any assessment regarding the incidence of cancer in Punjab;
- (b) the details of tertiary cancer care facilities established under Central Government schemes;
- (c) whether additional cancer treatment and diagnostic facilities are proposed for Punjab; and
- (d) the steps being taken to strengthen early screening and affordable treatment?

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

(a) As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)–National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), the estimated incidence of cancer cases in Punjab is regularly assessed. The estimated number of incident cancer cases in Punjab was 41,337 in 2023 and 42,288 in 2024 and 43,196 in 2025.

(b) To strengthen tertiary cancer care, the Government implements the Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities Scheme, under which 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary Cancer Care Centres (TCCCs) were approved across the country. In Punjab, Government Medical College, Amritsar was approved as a State Cancer Institute (SCI) and Civil Hospital, Fazilka as a Tertiary Cancer Care Centre (TCCC). In addition, Tata Memorial Centre has established comprehensive cancer care hospitals at Chandigarh and Sangrur.

(c) Public health and hospitals are state subject, the primary responsibility for establishing additional cancer treatment and diagnostic facilities rests with the respective State Government. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under National Health Mission (NHM), based on the proposals received in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs), subject to availability of resource envelope. 524 Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) are functional across the country to ensure cancer care accessibility at district level.

(d) To strengthen early Screening, a population – based initiative for the prevention, control and screening of common non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including cancer was rolled out across the country. Under the initiative, individual over 30 years of age are targeted for their

screening at all levels of healthcare Facilities. Under National Programme for Prevention and control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), 770 District NCD Clinics, 233 Cardiac Care Units and 6,410 NCD clinics at Community Health Centres were set up across the country

The Government has undertaken several measures to strengthen early screening and affordable cancer treatment, including:

- Under Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), eligible families receive health coverage of ₹5 lakh annually for cancer treatment. The scheme was also expanded to provide coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of income.
- The Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) initiative provides essential medicines, implants and surgical disposables, including cancer medicines, at substantially discounted price
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), quality generic medicines, including anti-cancer drugs, are made available at affordable prices through Janaushadhi Kendras across the country.
- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regulates prices of scheduled medicines, including several anti-cancer drugs, to improve affordability and reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for patients.
- Custom duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) were reduced on certain anti cancer drugs to make them more affordable.
- Under NHM, National Free Drugs Initiative and Free Diagnostic Services ensure essential medicines and diagnostics at public health facilities, reducing out-of-pocket expenses. Anti-cancer drugs are included in the Essential Drugs List at District and Sub-Divisional Hospitals.
