

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 352
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH MARCH, 2023**

VULNERABILITY OF DIABETIC PATIENTS DURING COVID-19

***352. SHRI T.R. BAALU:**

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

- (a) whether the Government agrees with the view that the COVID-19 pandemic has established the vulnerability of diabetic patients emphasizing the need to manage and prevent the disease among people across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in view the fact that around 25 per cent of a poor family's income is spent on treating a family member with diabetes, pushing the family deeper into poverty?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

- (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
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(a) to (c): As per ICMR, Diabetes has been considered as a high-risk factor for all infectious diseases including severe COVID-19 disease.

1. Taking cognizance of association between elevated blood sugar levels (whether in patients with pre-existing diabetes mellitus, or hyperglycaemia due to steroid therapy), an updated “Clinical Guidance on Diagnosis and Management of Diabetes at COVID-19 Patient Management facility” was issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 1st June 2021 (available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ClinicalGuidanceonDiagnosisandManagementofDiabetesatCOVID19PatientManagementfacility.pdf>).

2. The said guidance calls for screening of every patient as well as gives detailed patient management guidelines (including diet) for managing hyperglycaemia and preventing its complications.

The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS). The programme includes the following,

- i. Strengthening infrastructure
- ii. Human resource development
- iii. Health promotion
- iv. Screening of 30 years and above population under Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centre
- v. Early diagnosis and management
- vi. Referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility

Under NPCDCS, 708 District NCD Clinics and 5671 Community Health Center NCD Clinics has been set up.

Action taken by Government in respect of diabetes treatment:

1. Under Free Drugs Service Initiative of NHM, financial support is provided to States/UTs for provision of free essential medicines including insulin for poor and needy people.
2. Quality generic medicines including insulin are made available at affordable prices to all, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in collaboration with the State Governments. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacy stores have been set up in some hospitals/institutions, with an objective to make available diabetic drugs at a substantial discount vis-à-vis the Maximum Retail Price.
3. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary or tertiary care hospitalization to over 60 Crores beneficiaries identified from Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) database is provided. The treatment packages under AB-PMJAY are very comprehensive covering various treatment related aspects such as drugs and diagnostic services.

Awareness Generation for Diabetes prevention has also been focused in following ways:-

1. Preventive aspect of Diabetes is strengthened under Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centre Scheme, by promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication at the community level.
2. Other initiatives for increasing public awareness by using print, electronic and social media about Diabetes and for promotion of healthy lifestyle includes observation of World Diabetes Day.
3. Healthy Eating is promoted through Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
4. Fit India movement is implemented by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
5. Various Yoga related activities are carried out by Ministry of AYUSH.
