

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1601  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**DELAY IN TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASES DUE TO COVID-19**

**1601. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several treatment procedures including for cancer and other long duration treatment have been delayed due to COVID19 pandemic;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made any report/survey on the delayed treatment and the affects resulted therein;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the delay may create new pandemic of mortality in near future?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (d): 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), as part of National Health Mission (NHM), based on the proposals received from the States/UTs and subject to the resource envelope. Cancer is an integral part of NPCDCS. The programme focusses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion & awareness generation for Cancer prevention, early diagnosis, management and referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility for treatment of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including Cancer.

During the COVID -19 pandemic in order to ensure continuity of health care services Mobile Medical Units were utilized for delivery of services, especially follow up care for NCDs. The screening services were reorganized during the period of lockdown and beyond. Primary healthcare team at Sub-Health Centre (SHC), including HWCs were encouraged to follow up with the specific groups such as patients suffering from Hypertension and Diabetes.

States were instructed to ensure uninterrupted availability of cancer treatment services. State Health Department was advised to issue directives to the district administration allowing easy movement of these patients to access care. In case of patients, who could not afford private vehicles, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) vehicles could be used for facilitating transport of patients.

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