

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1137  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022**

**CANCER TREATMENT**

**1137. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:  
SHRI SANJAY SETH:**

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to enable the Central PSUs to manufacture cancer treatment drugs and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the prices of such drugs manufactured by the PSUs in comparison to the private pharma companies;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide affordable treatment of cancer keeping in view the high cost of its treatment; if so, the details of the steps taken so far;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make the facility of chemotherapy easily available in Government hospitals so as to make it affordable and accessible to poor and needy patients, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there is any plan to set up any new research institute or hospital in view of the increasing number of cancer patients in the country, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e): None of the pharma PSUs are manufacturing any drugs for the treatment of cancer.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) regulates safety, efficacy and quality of the drugs, medical devices and cosmetics under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetic Act, 1940 & Rules, 1945 made there under. The Government of India has notified the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 for regulation of clinical trials, bioavailability and bioequivalence (BA/BE) study of new drugs and investigational new drugs for human use, which contains various provisions for improving transparency and accountability of the approval process and to promote research and development of new drugs including anticancer drugs in the country.

Patients with non-communicable diseases including cancer are getting treatment at various health facilities in the health care delivery system including Districts Hospitals, Medical Colleges, Central Institutes like AIIMS and private sector hospitals. The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy.

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. The programme focuses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion & awareness generation for prevention, early diagnosis, management and referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility for treatment of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Under NPCDCS, 266 District Day Care Centres has been set up to ensure continuum of chemotherapy of patients already put on treatment.

The Central Government implements Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities Scheme in order to enhance the facilities for tertiary care of cancer. 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) have been approved under the said scheme. Seven of these SCIs/TCCCs have been completed.

There is also focus on Oncology in its various aspects in case of new AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY). Setting up of National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata are also steps in this direction. All these enhance the capacity for treatment of cancer in the country.

Treatment of Cancers is also available under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). Besides, quality generic medicines 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 Cancer drugs at a substantial discount vis-à-vis the Maximum Retail Price. Under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), financial assistance is provided to families living below threshold poverty line for their treatment, including treatment of Cancer in Government hospitals.

The Department of Atomic Energy has established cancer centres in Kharghar, Varanasi (two), Guwahati, Sangrur, Visakhapatnam, New Chandigarh and Muzaffarpur. The Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai is also expanding its capacity with a new building at the Haffkine campus close to the existing hospital.