

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3459
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2025**

CANCER PATIENTS

**3459. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:**

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

- (a) whether the number of cancer patients are increasing every year in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the number of cancer patients at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether cancer medicines are available at affordable rates and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the appropriate steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure availability of medicines to Cancer patients at affordable rates;
- (d) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has notified certain cancer drugs in the schedule and fixed the maximum price cap of the said drugs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure large scale production of cancer drugs by pharmaceutical companies ensuring the availability and distribution thereof at affordable rates?

ANSWER

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

(a) : As per the ICMR – National Cancer Registry Programme, the estimated number of incidence of cancer cases in the country during last five years from 2019 to 2023 by State/Union Territories-wise list is at **Annexure**.

(b) to (e): Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Scheme was launched to set up dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. Under PMBJP, 2047 types of medicines and 300 surgical devices have been brought under the basket of the scheme, of which 87 products are for cancer treatment.

Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT), initiative launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides affordable medicines for treatment of various diseases including cancer. As on 28.02.2025, there are 222 AMRIT Pharmacies spread across 29 States/Union Territories, selling more than 6500 drugs including Cancer at significant discounts.

Under National Health Mission (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 under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD).

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes ceiling prices under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) in respect of the drugs specified in Schedule-I to DPCO, 2013. Manufacturers of scheduled medicines (both branded and generic) are required to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by NPPA. In addition, NPPA fixes the retail price of new drugs as defined in DPCO, 2013. The retail price of a new drug is applicable to the applicant manufacturer and marketer, who are required to sell the new drug within the price notified by NPPA. In case of non-scheduled formulations, a manufacturer is at liberty to fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of drugs launched by it. However, as per DPCO, 2013, a manufacturer is required to not increase MRP of a nonscheduled drug by more than 10% of MRP during the preceding 12 months. In addition to the above, the ceiling price of a drug may also be fixed under certain circumstances, in public interest.

The aforesaid Schedule to DPCO, 2013 consists of the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022 notified by the Department of Health and Family Welfare which includes 63 anti-cancer drugs, including immunosuppressives and medicines used in palliative care.

Various measures have been taken to make cancer drugs affordable and accessible to the masses, including, among others, the following:

1. NPPA has fixed ceiling prices of 131 scheduled anti-cancer formulations under NLEM. These include 111 formulations whose prices were fixed under the NLEM, 2015. Refixation of the same under NLEM, 2022 has resulted in reduction of around 21% from the ceiling prices fixed under NLEM, 2015, leading to annual savings of around ₹294.34 crore to patients.
2. NPPA has fixed retail prices of 28 anti-cancer formulations of applicant manufacturing and marketing companies, under the DPCO, 2013 provisions relating to fixing of retail prices of new drugs.
3. In addition, NPPA has put a cap of 30% trade margin on 42 non-scheduled anticancer medicines, in public interest, which has resulted in reduction of MRP of 526 brands of these medicines by an average of around 50% and annual savings of around ₹984 crore to patients.
4. Government reduced customs duty to nil and GST rates from 12% to 5% for three anti-cancer drugs in the financial year (FY) 2024-25 and NPPA has issued directions to companies to reduce MRP to pass on the tax benefit to consumers.
5. Exemption/concessions in customs duty on identified anti-cancer medicines has also been announced in the budget for FY 2025-26.

With the objective of promoting domestic manufacturing of drugs, the Department of Pharmaceuticals is implementing the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals with total financial outlay of ₹15,000 crore with scheme tenure till the financial year 2027-28. 54 anti-cancer drugs are manufactured under this scheme.

Estimated Incidence of cancer cases in India by different State/UT - All sites - Both Sexes					
State	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jammu & Kashmir UT	12396	12726	13060	13395	13744
Ladakh UT	279	286	294	302	309
Himachal pradesh	8589	8799	8978	9164	9373
Punjab	37744	38636	39521	40435	41337
Chandigarh	994	1024	1053	1088	1120
Uttaranchal	11216	11482	11779	12065	12348
Haryana	28453	29219	30015	30851	31679
Delhi	24436	25178	25969	26735	27561
Rajasthan	69156	70987	72825	74725	76655
Uttar pradesh	196652	201319	206088	210958	215931
Bihar	101014	103711	106435	109274	112180
Sikkim	443	445	465	496	525
Arunachal pradesh	1015	1035	1064	1087	1125
Nagaland	1719	1768	1805	1854	1890
Manipur	1844	1899	2022	2097	2169
Mizoram	1783	1837	1919	1985	2063
Tripura	2507	2574	2623	2715	2790
Meghalaya	2808	2879	2943	3025	3099
Assam	36948	37880	38834	39787	40721
West bengal	105814	108394	110972	113581	116230
Jharkhand	33045	33961	34910	35860	36840
Orissa	49604	50692	51829	52960	54136
Chattisgarh	27113	27828	28529	29253	30014
Madhya pradesh	75911	77888	79871	81901	84029
Gujarat	67841	69660	71507	73382	75290
Daman	118	124	135	150	161
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	186	206	219	238	252
Maharashtra	113374	116121	118906	121717	124584
Telangana	46464	47620	48775	49983	51145
Andhra pradesh	68883	70424	71970	73536	75086
Karnataka	83824	85968	88126	90349	92560
Goa	1591	1618	1652	1700	1735
Lakshadweep	27	27	28	28	31
Kerala	56148	57155	58139	59143	60162
Tamil nadu	86596	88866	91184	93536	95944
Pondicherry	1523	1577	1623	1679	1753
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	357	366	380	393	401
Total	1358415	1392179	1426447	1461427	1496972