

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2386
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

USE OF IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR CANCER TREATMENT

2386. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

- (a) whether immunotherapy is permitted for the treatment of cancer under the approved medical protocols and guidelines issued by the Government in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether immunotherapy is currently being provided to cancer patients in Government hospitals across the country and if so, the names of such hospitals; and
- (c) the details of the approved protocols, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and clinical guidelines prescribed by the Ministry for the administration of immunotherapy in cancer hospitals including criteria for patient eligibility and monitoring mechanisms in place?

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

(a) to (b) As per information provided by Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Health Research - ICMR has prepared evidence-based guidelines for lung cancer treatment and palliative care. These guidelines establish a standardized, evidence-based framework for the diagnosis, treatment, and palliation of lung cancer, with the objective of improving early detection, strengthening clinical decision-making, and reducing variations in care delivery across the country. The guidelines comprise 15 evidence-based recommendations covering both therapeutic and palliative aspects of lung cancer management, including the recommendation of immunotherapy, either alone or in combination with other agents, over chemotherapy alone in suitable patients.

Immunotherapy services are provided in certain tertiary care Government hospitals, including institutions under the Central Government and State Governments, subject to availability of infrastructure, trained specialists, and approved drugs.

(c) The Government of India, through the Department of Health Research, Clinical Establishment Standards, and ICMR recommendations, has established a framework to support the use of immunotherapy in lung cancer treatment. The detailed standard operating procedures, patient eligibility criteria, and monitoring protocols are outlined in the national lung cancer evidence-based guidelines. [Ref: <https://dhr.gov.in/whatsnew/eve-world-cancer-day-honorable-union-health-minister-releases-evidence-based-guidelines>].
