

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1082
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2026**

DECLARATION OF CANCER AS A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

1082. DR. MALLU RAVI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined the proposal to declare cancer a notifiable disease at the national level in view of the rising cancer burden in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has considered the recommendations of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other expert bodies in this regard alongwith the current status thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the experience of States, including Telangana, which have notified cancer as a notifiable disease and the outcomes thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish a nationwide mandatory cancer reporting mechanism covering both public and private healthcare institutions to strengthen cancer surveillance, planning and early intervention; and
- (e) if so, the details and timeline thereof?

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

(a) to (e) The primary purpose of notification of diseases is to facilitate immediate public health action such as case investigation, contact tracing, isolation and outbreak containment. Such notification systems are intended for communicable diseases and other public health emergencies requiring urgent intervention.

Cancer is a non-communicable and non-contagious disease. Therefore, mandatory notification of individual cancer cases does not serve the public health objectives for which statutory notification systems have been designed.

Cancer surveillance in the country is undertaken through the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), comprising Population-

Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) and Hospital-Based Cancer Registries (HBCRs). These registries collect standardized and quality-assured data on cancer incidence, prevalence, mortality, survival and treatment outcomes for evidence-based policy formulation, programme planning and resource allocation. Registry-based surveillance is the internationally accepted approach for monitoring non-communicable diseases such as cancer.

Health being a State subject, the responsibility for notification of diseases under public health laws rests with the respective State Governments. Some States/UTs have notified cancer under their own public health frameworks. The Union Government supports States/UTs through technical guidance, national programmes and financial assistance.

The Government is continuously strengthening cancer surveillance through the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), the National NCD Portal under NP-NCD and digital health initiatives. ICMR-NCDIR is also developing technology-enabled mechanisms, including API-based integration with hospital information systems, AB PM-JAY and mortality databases, to facilitate secure and automated collection of structured cancer data and improve the representativeness and quality of national cancer surveillance.
