

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2026**

CANCER CASES AND CARE FACILITIES IN LADAKH

1106. SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of any reported increase in cancer cases in the Union Territory of Ladakh in recent years, if so, the details of the available data on cancer prevalence, the most commonly diagnosed types of cancer and key trends in the region;
- (b) whether there is any evidence or studies linking environmental, lifestyle, dietary or occupational factors unique to Ladakh's high-altitude and cold climate to the rise in cancer cases, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to undertake a comprehensive population-wide screening and diagnostic programme across Ladakh to ensure early detection and investigate underlying etiologies, considering its small and geographically defined population, if so, the details regarding its scope, strategy, timelines and budgetary allocation; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen cancer care infrastructure, diagnostic facilities, early detection services and community awareness initiatives in the Union Territory of Ladakh?

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

- (a) As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in the Union Territory of Ladakh, stomach, lung and esophageal cancers are the most common types of cancer among males, while breast, stomach and esophageal cancers are the most common types among females.

The UT of Ladakh has informed that the total number of diagnosed cancer cases during the last five years is as follows:

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total Cancer Diagnosed	50	87	173	208	214

(b) As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study published in 2025, states that the socio-economic changes have influenced dietary patterns, leading to greater dietary diversity, but also contributing to the rise of chronic diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes. Also the evolution in the traditional diet over the years changed the diet patterns, which is perceived to be the significant contributor to the increase in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) in the region as well as shifting from agricultural to non-agricultural activities also seen as a factor impacting disease incidence.

(c) & (d) The Department of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to States and Union Territories across the country under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) as part of the National Health Mission (NHM). The programme focuses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, screening, early diagnosis, referral, treatment, and health promotion for Non- Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Under NP-NCD, 770 District NCD Clinics, 233 Cardiac Care Units and 6,410 NCD clinics at Community Health Centres have been set up across the country. In addition, 524 Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) are functional across the country to ensure cancer care accessibility at district hospital level, out of which 02 DCCCs are functional in Ladakh.

A population-based initiative for prevention, control and screening for common NCDs including three common cancers (oral cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer) has been rolled out in the country including Ladakh under NHM. In this initiative, persons more than 30 years of age are targeted for their screening at Ayushman Arogya Mandir. Prevention, control & screening services are being provided through trained frontline workers [Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) & Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM)].

The programme is being implemented in all the districts of the union Territory. Under National Health Mission (NHM), funds are provided to States & Union Territories for awareness generation activities as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). In addition, outreach screening camps and IEC/awareness activities, including health melas, are organized to promote cancer prevention, early detection and timely referral.
