

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2152
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st JULY, 2026**

OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURE ON CANCER AND CARDIAC TREATMENT

**2152. SHRI MOHIBBULLAH:
SHRI PUSHPENDRA SAROJ:
ADV PRIYA SAROJ:
SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of out-of-pocket expenditure on cancer and cardiac treatment, particularly on low-income and rural households, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to improve the affordability and availability of essential medicines and consumables for cancer and cardiac care under Central Government programmes;
- (c) the details of the Government's assessment regarding the contribution of medicines, consumables and diagnostics to out-of-pocket expenditure on such treatment;
- (d) the mechanism in place to monitor compliance with pricing and procurement guidelines for medicines and consumables under Central health schemes; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the financial burden of cancer and cardiac treatment on patients?

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

- a) As per the National Health Account Estimates, the share of Out-Of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) in Total Health Expenditure (THE) has significantly decreased from 62.6% in 2014-15 to 39.4% in 2021-22.
- b) to (d) To improve the affordability and availability of essential medicines, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), quality generic medicines, including medicines used in the treatment of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, are made available at affordable prices through Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacies improve access to affordable cancer medicines, stents, and implants, reducing out-of-pocket expenses and supporting long-term treatment adherence. 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 Hospitals under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCDs).

The prices of essential medicines are regulated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). NPPA has fixed ceiling prices of scheduled formulations included in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and retail prices of new drugs. As on 31.12.2025, ceiling prices of 131 anti-cancer scheduled formulations are under price control, resulting in an average reduction of around 21% in ceiling prices and estimated annual savings of about ₹294 crore to patients. NPPA has also fixed 54 retail prices in the anti-cancer therapeutic category, comprising 31 anti-cancer drugs, 22 anti-neoplastic drugs and 1 immuno-suppressive drug.

(e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken following steps to reduces the financial burden of cancer and cardiac treatment on patients:-

- National Health Mission (NHM) provides financial and technical assistance to States and Union Territories with a focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resources, early diagnosis, referrals, treatment, and awareness for NCD prevention. Under the programme, 770 District NCD Clinics, 233 Cardiac Care Units, 524 Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs), and 6,410 NCD clinics at Community Health Centres have been set up.
- Under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), population-based screening for common Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is undertaken for all individuals aged **30 years and above** for diabetes, hypertension and the three common cancers (oral, breast and cervical) as part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and other public health facilities.
- 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary Cancer Care Centers (TCCCs) have been set up in different parts of the country to provide advanced health care.
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Jhajjar, with 1,460 patient care beds and advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities and the second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata, with 460 beds have been set up by the Government to provide super-specialty care.
- Treatment of NCDs is also available under Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY). This scheme provides for ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care, benefiting 55 crore people.
- One-time financial assistance upto ₹15 lakh is provided under the Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) for treatment of poor patients living below poverty lines and suffering from cancer.
