

## **Regarding the Alarming rise of Cancer cases in the North-Eastern States**

**SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NOWGONG):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the alarming rise of cancer patients in our country. As per the figure of the National Cancer Registry, the number of patients in 2018 was 13,25,232. This figure has risen to 14,61,427 in 2022, and this figure is not exhaustive.

We also know that the incidence of cancer is not uniform all over the country. In certain parts of the country, the incidence of cancer is more than in other parts of the country. Unfortunately, the Northeastern region has become a kind of cancer capital of India.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that in 2018, the Cancer Registry of India warned of the North-East becoming India's cancer capital. In 2023, the situation worsened with Manipur experiencing 6.48 per cent cancer diagnoses, which is far above the national average of 2.45 per cent. According to the National Cancer Registry Programme, the incidence of cancer is prevalent all over the North-East and people here are suffering a lot because of it.

So, I would like to request the Government of India to take up very specific programmes for this. It is high time that the Central Government acknowledged the gravity of the situation and took concrete steps to address this emerging crisis. Suggestions to the Government are given by the Cancer Society of India. These suggestions should be very, very sincerely implemented. These suggestions are:

1. HPV Vaccination should be included in the national immunization programme for both boys and girls in the age group of nine to 14 and it should be given at free of cost.
2. Cancer should be made a notifiable disease so that we have more accurate data for research, policy making etc.
3. The Central Government should also support the education and placement of more medical specialists in the Northeastern States with an emphasis on early cancer identification and basic care.

4. A policy for a tobacco free India by 2033 should be made. More strict rules should be there for banning tobacco products near schools and they should be inaccessible for school-going children.

5. Dedicated 24/7 national helpline for all cancer-related queries should be there.

6. There should be research for the Indian ethnicity to provide affordable care.

7. There should be control on phenomenal prices of cancer drugs.

As North-East is becoming the cancer capital of India, Government of India and the Health Ministry should lay special emphasis to bring down the cancer treatment to an affordable level in the Northeastern States. Thank you.