

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:854

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011

CANCER PATIENTS

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of various national and international studies which state that cancer has become one of the deadliest and costliest worldwide;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the number of cancer patients in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cancer patients and its prevalence among men and women in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has launched any programme for providing affordable treatment of cancer across the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed to control the high prices of medicines for cancer treatment?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a) & (b): A large number of researches and studies on cancer are being carried out throughout the world. Indian Council of Medical Research is also carrying out various activities relating to cancer research and collection of data. Cancer is curable if detected and treated at an early stage. The treatment of cancer is through Surgery, Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy and supportive care. The diagnosis and treatment of cancer is generally costly.

(c) & (d) No survey has been conducted by this Ministry to ascertain the number of cancer patients in the country. The data collected by Indian Council of Medical Research through its Population Based Cancer Registry 2006-08, the estimated number of incidence and prevalent case (State/UT-wise) in year 2010 among male and female is annexed.

(e) & (f) The Government has recently launched a comprehensive National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS). The new programme envisages providing diagnostic services, basic surgery, chemotherapy and palliative care to cancer patients at 100 districts across 21 States. In the Government health care delivery system including government medical colleges and referral institutions, the modalities of treatment are either free or subsidized for the poor cancer patients. However, these modalities of treatment in the private sector are often costly due to high cost of infrastructure and drugs. The Pharmaceutical Policy as amended from time to time is aimed at providing quality medicine to the masses at affordable prices.