

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:32

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013

CASES OF CANCER

Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the number of cancer cases and deaths is on the rise in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government to prevent spread of cancer and to provide affordable treatment to the patients along with the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the said period, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of a recent report of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which has classified outdoor air pollution as a cancer-causing agent and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a national policy to deliver an equitable, quality and affordable cancer care to all and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to promote research on cancer?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 32 for 06.12.2013

(a): Information received from Indian Council of Medical Research suggests that the estimated number of cancer cases and deaths are increasing. The State and UT wise number of cancer cases and deaths for the last three years (2010, 2011 and 2012) are at Annexure I, II and III respectively. The increase in the number of cases may be attributed to ageing population, unhealthy life style, use of tobacco and tobacco products, unhealthy diet, etc.

(b) & (d): While Health is a State subject, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for improving healthcare including prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. At present, the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) being implemented under NRHM for interventions upto the district level includes Cancer prevention, screening, early detection and referral to an appropriate level Institution for treatment. The focus is on three sites namely breast, cervical and oral cancer. In addition, the Government has recently approved a scheme for enhancing the Tertiary Cancer Care facilities in the country under NPCDCS. Under the scheme for eligible institutions upto Rs. 45 crores per Tertiary Cancer Care Centre and upto Rs. 120 crores for State Cancer Institute is available to assist 20 State Cancer Institutes and 50 Tertiary Cancer Care Centres in different parts of the country. The Central and State share for the said amount will be in the ratio 75:25 and for North and Hill States the share would be 90:10. In the 12th Five Year Plan, Rs. 6000 crores has been allocated under NPCDCS for interventions upto the district level under National Rural Health Mission and allocation of Rs. 3200 crores for the tertiary care component. In the earlier NPCDCS scheme, which was implemented from 2010 to 2012, the focus was on 100 districts in 21 States for prevention and control of Cancer, CVDs, Diabetes and Stroke. The details of funds sanctioned and utilized by different States in the said scheme for the period 2010-12 is at Annexure-IV. State wise funds released under Tertiary Cancer Care component of NPCDCS for the year 2011-12 and 2012-13 is at Annexure-V.

Government of India also supports treatment of cancer through Central Government Hospitals/ Institutions in different parts of the country. Financial assistance to patients is also provided under the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant, Health Minister's Cancer Fund and Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.

(c): A press release issued by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Dated 17/10/2013 states that it has classified outdoor air pollution as carcinogenic to humans. The IARC evaluation showed an increasing risk of lung cancer with increasing levels of exposure to particulate matter and air pollution. Outdoor air pollution is a major risk to health in general and also a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths worldwide. Air pollution is already known to increase risk for a range of diseases, such as respiratory and heart diseases.

(e): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is an apex body under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research. National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR), Bangaluru, under the aegis of ICMR, is now operational. National Cancer Registry Program for cancer data is being implemented by NCDIR all

over India through 28 Population based and 7 Hospital based registries. The Council's research priorities are in congruence with the National health priorities. Operational research on cancer is also carried out in other Central Government Institutions e.g. AIIMS, New Delhi; PGIMER, Chandigarh; JIPMER, Puducherry; Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata etc.