

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4374

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

CANCER AMONG WOMEN

Maganti Shri Murali Mohan;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran

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

- (a) whether the number of various types of cancer mainly cervical and breast cancer among women have increased over the past few years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey in this regard, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has permitted low-cost vinegar test for screening of cervical cancer, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the prevalent methods being employed for screening of women for all types of cancer in the country;
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government for early detection and affordable treatment of all types of cancer including cervical and breast cancer in the country; and
- (e) whether the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council has invited proposals on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) which is the leading cause of cervical cancer in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b): National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) provides data related to cancer incidence through Population based Cancer Registries. According to ICMR, the numbers of various types of cancer mainly breast and cervical cancer among women have increased over the past few years. The latest estimated number of incidences [(new) cancer cases] for (i) all anatomical sites (both sexes) (ii) cervical cancer and (iii) breast cancer cases in India for the years 2011- 2014 are at Annexure-I, II and III

The increase in the number of cancer cases among women may be attributed to, inter alia, family history of cancer, ageing population, use of tobacco and tobacco products, unhealthy life-style including unhealthy diet, improved diagnostic tools etc.

(c) & (d): Under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) the focus is on three sites namely breast, cervical and oral cancer. Breast Self- Examination (BSE) and Clinical Breast Examination (CBE) for breast cancer, Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) technique (also commonly/ popularly known as vinegar test) for cervical cancer and self- examination for oral cavity/examination by trained health professionals for oral cancer are envisaged for screening of these cancers.

Prevalent methods for diagnosing cancer include Fine Needle Aspiration cytology (FNAC), X-rays, Ultrasound, CT scan, MRI, biochemical tests, tumour markers besides histopathological confirmation by biopsy.

While Health is a State subject, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for improving healthcare including creating awareness, 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 National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for interventions upto the district level includes Cancer prevention, screening, early detection and referral to an appropriate level institution for treatment. 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/set up 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 East and Hill States the share would be 90:10.

(e): Yes. As per information provided by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), it has announced a special call on 'HPV Prevention and Control' through its Biotechnology Industry Partnership Program (BIPP) scheme inviting proposals in the areas of Screening, Diagnostic tests, Vaccines and Therapeutics.