

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1258  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

**CANCER AWARENESS**

**1258. SHRI RAMEN DEKA:**

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

- (a) whether lack of awareness amongst public is the main cause for late detection of cancer cases;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/ being taken to create awareness regarding cancer; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to improve palliative care for cancer patients?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): Cancer can be diagnosed and treated at various levels in the Health Care system. Many of the patients present themselves at advanced stages due to various factors.

Though public health is a State subject, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments. National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) is being implemented under National Health Mission (NHM). The objectives of the programme includes health promotion activities and opportunistic screening for common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including cancer. For cancer, focus is on Breast, Cervix and Oral cancer.

Population based screening of common NCDs, hypertension and cancers (Oral, Breast and Cervical cancer) has also been initiated under National Health Mission (NHM). Key components of population based screening of NCDs include community based risk assessment, screening, referral, and follow up of all individuals of 30 years and above for common NCDs (hypertension, diabetes, oral cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer). The initiative will help in early diagnosis and will generate awareness on risk factors of NCDs.

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Different media forms are used to generate awareness. State Cancer Institute and Tertiary Cancer Care Centres approved under strengthening of tertiary care for cancer activities will also mentor all cancer related activities in their respective areas.

The Government is implementing National Programme for Palliative Care (NPPC) under National Health Mission. The objectives of the programme include to improve the capacity to provide palliative care service delivery within Government health programmes, to promote behavior change in the community through increasing public awareness and improved skills and knowledge regarding pain relief and palliative care leading to community owned initiatives supporting health care system. Recurring and non-recurring grant is provided under National Health Mission for supporting human resource and infrastructure inter-alia.

The Program is a part of the 'Mission' Flexipool' of National Health Mission (NHM). A framework of operational and financial guidelines for the states has been developed, on the basis of which the states/UTs prepare their proposals related to palliative care and incorporate them in their respective PIPs to seek financial support under NHM. The support is provided as per PIPs submitted by the States.

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