

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 601
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th JULY, 2023**

RISING OF CANCER PATIENTS IN THE VILLAGES OF KERALA

601. DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the villages namely Neelamperur, Veliyanad, Kavalam, Kainakary, Pulinkunnu, Ramankari, Talwadi etc. in Kuttanad region of Kerala are witnessing an increase in cancer patients during the last twenty five years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the kind of researches undertaken and action taken to control it?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. SATYA PAL SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) to (c): As per the cancer registry available at RCC Thiruvananthapuram, there is no specific increase in any type of cancer in any region of Kerala. The state has an increased prevalence of cancer more than the national average, but the distribution is almost equal in all regions. The population-based Kiran study conducted in Kerala and population-based NCD screening did not reveal any abnormal increase of cancers in this region.

The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), as part of National Health Mission (NHM), based on the proposals received from the States/UTs and subject to the resource envelope. The programme focusses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion & awareness generation for prevention, early diagnosis, management and referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility for treatment of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including cancer. For activities upto district level and below, States are given financial assistance under NHM in the ratio of 60:40 (90:10 in case of NE and hilly States). In Kerala, 14 District NCD Clinics, 24 District Day Care Centres, and 227 Community Health Center NCD Clinics have been setup.

A population-based initiative for prevention, control and screening for common NCDs i.e. diabetes, hypertension and common cancers (oral cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer) has been rolled out in the country under NHM and also as a part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care. Under the initiative, persons more than 30 years of age are targeted for their screening. Screening of these common NCDs including cancer is an integral part of service delivery under Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres.

The Central Government also implements Strengthening of Tertiary Care of Cancer Scheme in order to enhance the facilities for tertiary care of cancer. 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) have been approved under the said scheme. Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and Government Medical College, Kozhikode is approved.

Preventive aspect of cancer is strengthened under Comprehensive Primary Health Care through Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centre scheme, by promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication at the community level. Other initiatives for increasing public awareness about cancer and for promotion of healthy lifestyle includes observation of International & National Health Days and use of print, electronic and social media for continued community awareness. Furthermore, healthy eating is also promoted through FSSAI. Fit India movement is implemented by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and various Yoga related activities are carried out by Ministry of AYUSH. In addition, NP-NCD gives financial support under NHM for awareness generation (IEC) activities for Cardiovascular Diseases to be undertaken by the States/UTs as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).
