

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 901
TO BE ANSWERED ON **07.02.2024**

National Cancer Grid

901. SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:
SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- a) the details of the specific measures being implemented to ensure that patients receive high-quality cancer care at an affordable cost;
- b) the details of the specific research outputs introduced in the field of cancer care over the past four years; and
- c) the details of the manner in which the National Cancer Grid is involved in cancer care along with the details of centres, research institutes, etc., that are part of its network, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES &
PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- a) The details of specific measures being implemented by TMC to ensure that patients receive high-quality cancer care are as below:
 - 1) Resource stratified guidelines for management of cancers based on the cost-effectiveness and infrastructure availability.
 - 2) The guidelines are linked with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to ensure quality of care delivery to the AB-PMJAY beneficiaries.
 - 3) Standardization of diagnosis by National Cancer Grid (NCG) surgical pathology quality assurance program which helps ensuring correct diagnosis at all the participating centres.
 - 4) Quality improvement programme which train the centres in improving quality of all the care pathways.

- 5) Group negotiation for all the high-value anticancer drugs resulting in a median 82% price reduction leading to improvement in access and affordability of drugs.
 - 6) Training of health-care professionals including nurses, pathologists and technicians from across the country to deliver high quality cancer care.
 - 7) Virtual Tumour Boards to provide inputs on diagnosis and treatment from a multidisciplinary team of cancer experts for all the complex cancer cases at any of the cancer centers at any location.
- b) The details of the specific research outputs introduced by TMC in the field of cancer care over the past four years is as below:
- 1) Optimization of treatment of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia to increase cure rates - the largest trial done till date anywhere in the world.
 - 2) Repurposing of drugs (aspirin, metformin and curcumin) to provide cost-effective treatment options for common cancers.
 - 3) Training the early career oncologists in conducting high-quality cancer research. Till date more than 400 oncologists have been trained.
 - 4) Setting a priority agenda for cancer research and collaborating with ICMR (with joint matched funding) to fund the country-relevant research questions.
- c) The details of steps taken by the National Cancer Grid for cancer care is as below:
- 1) Expansion of the network from 17 centres to 320 centres across all the States and Union Territories (state-wise list at <https://ncgindia.org>).
 - 2) Establishment of Koita Centre of digital oncology (funded by a Charitable Foundation) to leverage digital technologies to improve cancer care from prevention to treatment. This is in complete alignment with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

- 3) Integrated data collection & aggregation – a “National Cancer Database to guide all the cancer policies and national cancer control plan. Initial databases established for five common cancers.
- 4) Partnering with digital tech companies to deliver cancer care near to patient’s home.
- 5) Initiation of national tumor tissue biobank across NCG to understand the cancer causation, identification and development of new anticancer treatment and preventive technologies.
