

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.116
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2021**

DEATHS DUE TO CANCER, DIABETES AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

116 SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) the details of cases registered and the deaths occurred due to all types of cancers, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases during last three years, State-wise
- (b) the programmes initiated by Government to create awareness about these diseases
- (c) the details of Government's take on plant based diet and its ability to prevent such diseases
- (d) whether there is any research showing a positive correlation between the animal based diet and above mentioned diseases, if so, the details thereof and
- (e) the schemes launched by Government in providing healthcare to address the mitigation of these diseases in the rural areas?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): The exact number of deaths due to cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases is not known. However, the estimates based on National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) suggest, that the estimated deaths due to cancer are about 7 – 8 lakhs per year. In so far as diabetes is concerned, as per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), according to the Global Burden of Disease Report 2015, the number of deaths due to diabetes increased from 2.24 lakh (in the year 2005) to 3.46 lakhs (in the year 2015).

(b): While Public Health and Hospitals is a State subject, the Central Government supplements efforts of the State/UT Governments. Government of India is implementing National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) for interventions up to district level under the National Health Mission (NHM). It focuses on awareness generation for behavior and life-style changes, screening and early diagnosis of persons with high level of risk factors and their treatment and referral (if required) to higher facilitates for appropriate management for Non- Communicable Diseases.

A initiative of prevention, control and screening for common Non Communicable Disease (NCDs) (diabetes, hypertension and common cancers viz oral breast and cervical cancer) has also been rolled out under NHM, as a part of comprehensive primary healthcare. Under this initiative, services of frontline health workers such as Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), inter alia, are leveraged to carry out population based screening and generate awareness about the risk factors of NCDs among the masses. The initiative is under implementation across the country. Screening for common NCDs is also an integral part of service delivery under Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

Several awareness initiatives have been undertaken by the Government including observance of National Cancer Awareness Day and World Diabetes Day, organising of screening for major NCDs including blood pressure and major awareness events at occasions such as the India International Trade Fair (IITF), Delhi and use of print, electronic and social media, etc. In addition NPCDCS supports awareness generation activities to be undertaken by the States.

(c): The type of food consumed is a matter of individual choice. Though there is no policy regarding "plant based (vegetarian) diet", such diets are promoted for individual diet counselling in specific disease conditions. Health benefits of such diets are:- enhanced immunity; improved gut health; lower risk of diabetes, obesity and heart diseases, improved mood & reduction in anxiety and increase in longevity.

(d): As per the Report of "EAT Lancet Commission", 2019, (an International group of Public Health and Nutrition Experts which analysed potential impacts of dietary change on diet related disease mortality) it was concluded that dietary changes from current diets towards healthy (vegetarian) diets prevent approximately 11 million deaths globally.

(e): Public Health and hospital being a State subject, the primary responsibility to provide health care services to the citizens lies with State/UT Governments. However, financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs under National Health Mission (NHM) to strengthen their healthcare system.

The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy. Under National Health Mission Free Drugs and Free Diagnostic initiative, essential drugs and diagnostics are provided free of cost in public health facilities. Quality generic medicines are being made available at affordable prices to all, under 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme', in collaboration with the State Governments. Also, AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) stores have been set up in hospitals, where essential life-saving medicines are being provided at a substantial discount vis-a-vis the Maximum Retail Price.

Under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat, a Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) to reduce the financial burden on poor and vulnerable groups arising out of catastrophic hospital episodes and ensure their access to quality health services was conceived. It offers a benefit cover of Rs. 5,00,000 per family per year (on a family floater basis). PM-JAY will cover medical and hospitalization expenses for almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures. PM-JAY has defined 1,350 medical packages covering surgery, medical and day care treatments including medicines, diagnostics and transport.