

## **Regarding need to implement periodic cancer screening programme in the country-Laid**

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** Under Prime Minister's visionary leadership, India has taken significant steps in healthcare, including the recent allocation of ₹3,200 crore for 200 Day Care Cancer Centres. Today, I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the critical need for a national cancer screening program. Cancer prevalence in India has risen by over 50% in three decades, with a mortality rate of approximately 64%. Alarming, over 60% of cancers in India are detected at Stage III, unlike developed nations where detection occurs predominantly at Stages I or II. This late detection significantly reduces survival rates and breast cancer survival in India is only 68% compared to 90% in developed countries. Early detection is cost-effective and life-saving. Research indicates that breast cancer screening can avert up to 105.8 'disability-adjusted life years' per 1,000 women. However, our screening rates remain abysmally low—2% for cervical cancer and just 1% for breast and oral cancers, compared to over 70% in countries with national screening programs. I urge the Government to implement periodic cancer screening program, initially for Govt. & Public Sector employees aged above 40, and gradually expanding nationwide. This approach would reduce mortality rates, healthcare costs, and normalize screenings to overcome psychological barriers.