

Regarding need for comprehensive national policies on cancer screening in India

SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR (ZAHIRABAD): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to draw the urgent attention of this august House and the Union Government to the pressing need for comprehensive national policies on cancer screening in India.

Prostate cancer stands as the second most common cancer in men globally, and its incidence is regrettably rising in Indian cities. Similarly, breast and colorectal cancers are significant public health burdens, while cervical cancer remains a major concern that is largely preventable through screening. Currently, due to the absence of Government-mandated population-based screening programmes, many individuals remain undiagnosed until the diseases have reached advanced stages, severely impacting survival rates. Evidence robustly demonstrates that early detection through simple screening methods can significantly reduce mortality for these cancers.

I request the Union Government to mandate and regulate affordable screening for prostate cancer (PSA testing), colorectal cancer, breast cancer, and cervical cancer across all the public and private laboratories, with a special focus on individuals aged 40 and above.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health must launch widespread, targeted awareness campaigns utilizing rural primary healthcare networks to educate the public extensively about the risks, symptoms, and benefits of early screening for all these types of cancers.

Thank you.