

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:259  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003  
BREAST CANCER  
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether breast cancer cases are reported more in urban areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether lack of awareness is one of the main reasons for the growing incidence of breast cancer in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 259 FOR 6.8.2003

Breast cancer is one of the commonest cancers in women in India. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) maintains 6 population-based Cancer Registries; one in a rural area of Maharashtra at Barshi and five in the urban areas of Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai. While the incidence of breast cancer is registered as 24.7 in Mumbai in 1997-98, the corresponding incidence in the rural areas of Barshi is 15.1. Rural data on other population-based sites is not available. ICMR has started five population-based registry sites at Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Delhi to get comparative data on the incidence of breast cancer between rural and urban areas. The study would be completed by September, 2003.

Increased awareness about breast cancer will definitely have an impact on the incidence and effective treatment in early stages. Delayed approach to health services resulting in detection of breast cancer at advanced stages of the disease makes it difficult to treat.

Under the National Cancer Control Programme, this Ministry is implementing various schemes aimed at creating awareness among the people and also for facilitating treatment of various types of cancers including breast cancer. The total outlay for the programme in the 10th Five Year Plan is Rs.285.00 crores. Electronic and print media are being used to spread awareness among the general population about cancers including cost effective detection of breast cancer (by self-examination). The Ministry supports 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States and Union Territories which act as referral centers for treatment of cancer cases in those regions. The Ministry also funds setting up of Oncology wings in medical colleges and Cobalt Therapy Units in Government and NGO-run institution.

The ICMR, in partnership with the Himachal Pradesh Government, is running a programme for awareness and early detection of breast cancer in three districts of HP, namely, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Mandi. This scheme aims at spreading awareness among the people and facilitate early detection and treatment of breast cancer.