

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:321  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003  
INDO-US COLLABORATION IN CANCER RESEARCH  
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA;Y.G. MAHAJAN

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

- (a) whether the Government of India and the United States of America are contemplating to increase mutual cooperation in the field of cancer research;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the result achieved so far from research being done in India in this field?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 321 FOR 13.8.2003

As far as cancer research is concerned, at present at the government level, there is no collaboration between India and the United States of America. No such collaboration is currently under consideration at the government level.

As regards cancer research being done in this country, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex agency for this purpose. The focus of research has been on collection of authentic data on cancer occurrence; search for causes of common cancers and its pathogenesis in India; and operational research for control of common cancer. The National Cancer Registry Programme has provided data on cancer occurrence since 1982 through its network of six population based and five hospital based cancer registries, and also supported development of human resource in cancer epidemiology and registration. The Cancer Registry data show the magnitude of problem, common cancer sites and their time-trends and variations in different geographical areas. Operation Research studies on cervical cancer have indicated that para-medical workers can be trained to carry out the work related to its early detection. The projects on control of use of tobacco (which is a major cause of cancer) through media, health infrastructure, educational institutions and voluntary groups indicated a reduction of tobacco use after each intervention. Multi-disciplinary studies on cervical cancer, besides identifying the risk factors, have also provided important information on role of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection and common HPV types associated with cervical cancer in India. The ICMR has recently initiated an operational research project in three districts of Himachal Pradesh on screening for cancer of cervix, breast and oral cavity.

Besides ICMR, there are 20 regional cancer centers in the country which are providing comprehensive treatment for cancer and some of them have also undertaken specific research projects.