

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1058
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2026**

**CDSCO APPROVED AI SCREENING TECHNOLOGIES FOR BREAST
CANCER UNDER NP-NCD**

1058. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has assessed the feasibility for the inclusion of CDSCO approved Artificial Intelligence (AI) screening technologies for breast cancer under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD);
- (b) the current timeline for updating the NP-NCD Operational Framework to transition from traditional clinical breast examinations to AI-assisted diagnostic protocols; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has initiated pilot testing for the inclusion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) screening technologies for breast cancer under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c) For newer technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based medical devices, Health Technology Assessment (HTA), under the Department of Health Research (DHR), wherever applicable, provides assessment of their clinical effectiveness, safety, cost-effectiveness and overall value to support evidence-based policy decisions regarding their adoption under public health programmes.

Under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), women aged 30 years and above are educated and counselled regarding breast awareness, including Breast Self-Examination (BSE), to facilitate early recognition of breast-related symptoms such as a lump, nipple discharge or changes in the breast, and to encourage timely reporting to the nearest health facility. Population-based screening for breast cancer is

undertaken through Clinical Breast Examination (CBE) by trained healthcare providers at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) and other public health facilities. Individuals with suspected abnormalities are referred to higher health facilities for appropriate diagnostic evaluation and management as per the Operational Framework of the Programme.

As per the Guidelines for Establishing Day Care Cancer Centres, States/UTs are encouraged to implement for laboratory investigations and chemotherapy, pre-collect blood samples wherever feasible, establish linkages with nearby health facilities for routine investigations, streamline triage, maintain dedicated oncology outpatient and chemotherapy infusion slots, and ensure efficient pharmacy management to minimize treatment delays.

Further, linkage of Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) with Mentor Institutes is encouraged to facilitate timely referrals, teleconsultations, counter-referral mechanisms, and continuity of treatment. A designated liaison officer/nodal Medical Officer at the DCCC and a DCCC Coordinator at the Mentor Institute are also provided for to strengthen coordination, communication and programme implementation.
