

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 114
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2018**

INCREASE IN TB PATIENTS IN THE COUNTRY

114. SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

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

- (a) whether there is an increase in the number of TB patients in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether WHO has published any report giving details of TB patients worldwide; and
- (c) what effective action has been taken by Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Yes , the number of TB patients has increased from 18.27 lakhs in 2017 to 18.62 lakhs in 2018 (till November). The increase in number is due to initiatives like expansion of repaid diagnostics/ molecular testing services across the country, Active Case Finding, increased notification from Private Sector and Community Engagement.

(b): Yes, WHO has publishes a global TB report every year, the recent report was published in September 2018.

(c): The Ministry has developed the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis (2017-2025) with the goal of eliminating TB by 2025.

The key focus areas are:

- Early diagnosis of all the TB patients, prompt treatment with quality assured drugs and treatment regimens along with suitable patient support systems to promote adherence.
- Engaging with the patients seeking care in the private sector.
- Prevention strategies including active case finding and contact tracing in high risk / vulnerable population
- Airborne infection control.
- Multi-sectoral response for addressing social determinants.