

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3012
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025**

ADVANCING TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION

3012 DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has adopted a renewed approach to identify undiagnosed TB cases, reducing TB-related deaths and preventing new infections in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any collaboration to develop community based, patientcentric models aimed at improving health seeking behaviours, access to healthcare services, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to establish more screening and testing facilities to diagnose patients and to engage private pharmacies for identification of missing patients suffering from tuberculosis in Himachal Pradesh?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d) The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is implemented under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM). To identify undiagnosed TB cases, reducing TB-related deaths and preventing new infections across the country, including in Himachal Pradesh, the NTEP has implemented a renewed approach which includes mapping of vulnerable population, screening with Chest X-ray, upfront Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) for all presumptive TB cases, prompt & appropriate treatment initiation, differentiated TB care for managing high-risk TB cases and provide TB preventive treatment to household contacts and eligible vulnerable population.

Under NTEP free screening, diagnosis and treatment is provided to all TB patients in public health facilities and identified private healthcare facilities. TB services have been decentralized to the level of Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM).

Community engagement is ensured through the comprehensive primary care package of services provided by AAM. Intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are conducted to educate the public and raise awareness about symptoms, TB prevention and the importance of timely treatment for TB. Jan Bhagidari activities are implemented with involvement of Schools, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self Help Groups, Anganwadis, local Non-Government Organisations and Civil Society Organizations.

In Himachal Pradesh, under NTEP, to strengthen screening & testing services, 251 microscopy centres, 122 NAAT laboratories, 01 Line Probe Assay laboratory and 01 Culture & Drug Susceptibility Testing centres have been established. Further to support NTEP, 1782 private health facilities and 319 pharmacies / chemists have been engaged in Himachal Pradesh.
