

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1852
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th AUGUST, 2026**

ENHANCING TB DIAGNOSIS THROUGH DRONE TECHNOLOGY

1852. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether, as per the latest study report of the ICMR, drones can be very effective in reducing the time and cost of TB diagnosis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of cases of TB detected during 2025 and 2026, till date, State-wise?

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

- (a) and (b) As per the latest study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under its i-DRONE initiative, drone-assisted transport of tuberculosis (TB) sputum samples has been found to significantly reduce the time and cost of TB diagnosis in remote and hard-to-reach areas. The study, conducted in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana in collaboration with AIIMS Bibinagar and the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), demonstrated that the median turnaround time for TB diagnosis was reduced from 15 days to 5 days, while the mean out-of-pocket expenditure incurred by patients decreased from approximately Rs 9,451/- to Rs 91/-, thereby improving timely access to TB diagnostic services.
- (c) The number of cases of TB detected during 2025 and 2026, till date, State-wise, is placed as Annexure.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1852 for answer on 04/08/2026

State/UT wise number of TB cases notified under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (National TB Elimination Programme) in 2025 and 2026		
State/ UT	2025 (Jan. to Dec.)	2026 (Jan to June)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	518	251
Andhra Pradesh	78594	37356
Arunachal Pradesh	2495	1218
Assam	51202	23693
Bihar	221692	114461
Chandigarh	6562	3177
Chhattisgarh	39716	18596
DNH and DD	1301	562
Delhi	112914	57047
Goa	1881	948
Gujarat	131850	65307
Haryana	88862	46614
Himachal Pradesh	14670	7418
Jammu & Kashmir	12017	5403
Jharkhand	65909	30231
Karnataka	75635	35718
Kerala	19538	8927
Ladakh	279	112
Lakshadweep	15	5
Madhya Pradesh	173527	75890
Maharashtra	217994	95153
Manipur	2609	1267
Meghalaya	4650	2187
Mizoram	2311	1075
Nagaland	4153	1883
Odisha	60565	28592
Puducherry	3373	1544
Punjab	61055	29807
Rajasthan	163522	82348
Sikkim	1211	527
Tamil Nadu	93264	43991
Telangana	79690	26697
Tripura	3369	1648
Uttar Pradesh	710242	337282
Uttarakhand	28559	13915
West Bengal	101644	48888

Data Source: Ni-kshay Portal (As on 13.07.2026)