

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1890
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th AUGUST, 2026**

DRONE-BASED MEDICAL SAMPLE TRANSPORT FOR TB

1890. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the feasibility of adopting a nationwide drone-based medical sample transport network for tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis, in view of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) pilot in Telangana that reduced average diagnosis time from 17.8 days to 6.9 days and the cost of diagnosis from ₹9,451 to ₹91;
- (b) whether Government proposes to integrate drone-based transport of diagnostic samples under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), particularly in remote, tribal and underserved areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, including the proposed implementation roadmap, funding support and States identified for phased rollout?

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

(a) to (c) Public Health & Hospitals are State subjects. The Ministry provides technical & financial support to the State/UTs for screening, testing, diagnosis & treatment based on proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission (NHM). National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is implemented under the aegis of National Health Mission (NHM) across the country.

Under NTEP, the State/UTs are supported for sample collection & transportation, which includes drone-based medical sample transportation in hilly, difficult terrain & hard-to-reach areas based on justified proposals through PIPs under NHM.
