

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2019
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2018**

CHILDHOOD TB CASES

2019. DR. A. SAMPATH:

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that India has reported the highest number of childhood tuberculosis cases in the world for the last three consecutive years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the schemes which have been undertaken during the last three years to eradicate tuberculosis among the children of the country; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by the Government to combat the situation in a time-bound manner?

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

(a) & (b): Yes, India has reported the highest number of childhood tuberculosis cases in the World for the last three consecutive years. The reported number of childhood tuberculosis cases in 2015, 2016 and 2017 is 99,133, 1,04,886 and 1,05,568 respectively as per WHO Global TB report 2018.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) has set the deadline of 2025 for ending all forms of Tuberculosis from the country, including childhood tuberculosis and has formulated a National Strategic Plan (NSP 2017-25) for the purpose.

Following initiatives have been undertaken during last three years to address the problem of tuberculosis in children:

- For early diagnosis of all the childhood TB patients, molecular diagnostic laboratories have been made available at district level across the country.
- For involvement of private sector, various models are being implemented including through non-governmental organisations
- new quality-assured child-friendly flavoured dispersible formulations of daily Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) and body weight-based treatment regimens have been made available
- Contact investigations are carried out to identify and treat TB among child contacts of TB patients
- Isoniazid (INH) chemoprophylaxis is being given to children below six years of age, who are contacts of TB patients and do not have active TB. Nearly 38,745 children started on TB preventive therapy in 2017.