

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH JANUARY, 2019**

NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT TO TB PATIENTS

4129. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether the direct benefit transfer scheme for nutritional support to Tuberculosis (TB) patients under Nikshay Poshan Yojana has recorded slow progress in the last eight months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that of the 18 lakh registered TB patients across the country, only 4.69 lakh, barely 26 per cent of the beneficiary pool have received cash transfer so far;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) to e): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for nutritional support to tuberculosis patients as Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) from 01.04.2018.

As on 1st January 2019, out of 20.94 lakhs eligible beneficiaries, 8.78 lakh (42%) beneficiaries have received the benefit under the scheme.

The Government has taken various measures to expedite the progress under the schemes such as:

- The Ministry has provided detailed guidance to the State/Union Territories (UTs) on how DBT is to be operationalized. State/UTs have been given different payment options as per their convenience for either making payment directly through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) or through the Nikshay PFMS interface
- Flexibility of providing the benefit through existing bank account of a blood relative has also been given. State have also been advised to facilitate opening of zero balance accounts for TB patients, if necessary, under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Indian Postal Bank.
- The Ministry is regularly monitoring the implementation of this scheme and promptly addressing the challenges identified by the State/UTs.