

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 973  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019**

**TB ELIMINATION**

**973. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:**

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

- (a) whether India has committed to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025, requiring a reduction of 10 percent a year, but in 2017, it only managed a 2 percent reduction from the previous year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also true that positive TB test is not always a cause for worry and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also true that the Government is focusing on preventive treatment of those who are in contact with people who have tested positive; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b): Yes. Govt of India has committed to end tuberculosis by 2025.

Globally, the average rate of decline in the TB incidence rate was 1.8% between 2016 and 2017. In India, rate of decline in TB incidence rate was 3.3% between 2016 and 2017 as compared to 2.3% between 2015 and 2016. The National Strategic Plan 2017-25 for TB elimination by 2025 was developed in 2017 and included various interventions through multi-stakeholder engagement to reduce the burden of TB. These interventions are being implemented from 2017 onwards and the impact of these would be evident in the subsequent years.

- (c): No, it is not true that positive TB test is not always a cause for worry.

There are various types of TB test. When a tuberculosis skin test (TST) is positive, it is not always a cause of worry, as the person might only have infection and not have the disease. When a sputum microscopy or molecular test is positive, a diagnosis of TB is confirmed and although a cause for concern, the patient improves if promptly started on Anti-TB treatment and generally becomes non-infectious in 2-3 weeks.

- (d) & (e): Yes, it is true that Government is focussing identifying additional cases among family contacts of people whose sputum samples have tested positive.

As per the current guidelines Preventive treatment is offered to those eligible below 6 years of age and immune compromised individuals like person living with HIV (PLHIV).

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