

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1429  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**MOLECULAR TESTS**

**1429: DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to undertake a massive active case-finding programme using X-ray;
- (b) whether the Government is also considering using more molecular tests, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that on an average, only 20 percent of patients have access to the first molecular test in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

- (a) Active TB Case finding (ACF) is implemented under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) since 2018 wherein house-to-house visit is conducted by the peripheral health workers and the identified presumptive TB cases are screened for TB including through x-rays, wherever feasible. Since 2018, the programme has identified 2,57,126 additional TB cases through this exercise.
- (b) to (d): 4960 molecular diagnostic laboratories have been established across the country for detection of TB and drug-resistance for all TB patients. 57.52 lakh molecular tests have been conducted in 2022 (Jan-Dec).

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