

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1868  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> February, 2021**

**SPIKE IN TUBERCULOSIS CASES**

**1868. SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:**

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

- (a) whether there has been spike in Tuberculosis (TB) cases after the lockdown and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that there are multiple cases of dual incidence of COVID and TB in the country and if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether TB cases are likely going unnoticed as a result of COVID, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that TB annually claims as many lives in India as COVID has so far, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure TB patients, who often have other co-morbidities, are appropriately targeted for COVID prevention and testing; and
- (f) the progress made by the Government towards attaining the status of being TB free country?

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

(a): For the period Jan to Dec 2020, a total of 18.03 lakh TB cases were notified against 24.04 lakh in 2019. Thus, there has been a 25% decline in TB notification. There is no evidence to suggest that there has been spike in Tuberculosis (TB) cases after the lockdown.

(b) & (c): To ensure that the TB-COVID comorbid cases are detected, the government has undertaken bidirectional screening of TB and COVID-19 patients, through States/ UTs . In Jan-Dec 2020, out of 18.03 lakh TB cases notified, 3848 (0.2%) dual TB COVID cases were reported.

(d): As reported by States in 2020, 89,823 deaths occurred due to TB. Reported deaths due to COVID-19 in 2020 were 1, 48,738.

(e): Bidirectional screening of TB cases for COVID disease and COVID patients for the presence of TB disease were advised and as a result of these 4.53 lakhs notified TB cases were tested for COVID(Period Jan to December 2020). Government has protocol for addressing other co-morbidities and risk factors for TB such as HIV, Diabetes, use of tobacco and alcohol under the NTEP.

(f): The Government of India has developed a National Strategic Plan (2017-25) for Ending TB in the country by 2025. The key focus areas are:

- Early diagnosis of all the TB patients, prompt treatment with quality assured drugs and treatment regimens along with suitable patient support systems to promote adherence.
- Engaging with the patients seeking care in the private sector.
- Prevention strategies including active case finding and contact tracing in high risk / vulnerable population
- Airborne infection control.
- Multi-sectoral response for addressing social determinants.

As per Global TB Report, India has reduced the estimated incidence from 217/lakh population in 2015 to 193/lakh population in 2019.