

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2887  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**IMPACT OF COVID ON TB PATIENTS**

**2887. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:**

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

- (a) the details of the TB cases reported across the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether it has been observed that there is an adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on TB patients due to lack of transportation and reduced mobility in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken adequate measures to ensure proper medical treatment to TB patients during the COVID-19 pandemic; 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): The total number of TB cases notified during the last three years and current year are as under:

Year	Total No. of notified TB patients
2018(Jan-Dec)	2155894
2019 (Jan-Dec)	2404815
2020 (Jan-Dec)	1805670

(b) to (e): Multiple steps have been taken by National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) to mitigate COVID-19 pandemic impact on TB Services. The Government has taken the following measures to ensure affordable and accessible treatment to TB patients:

- i. Provision of free TB drugs of extended duration and door-step delivery
- ii. Guidance on ensuring functionality of TB diagnostic labs
- iii. Issuing multiple advisories to States and districts to ensure uninterrupted services during COVID-19
- iv. Guidance for Bi-directional TB-COVID screening and screening of TB among ILI/SARI cases issued to State/UTs