

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 302  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**POST-TB FUNGAL INFECTION AMONG ASSAM TEA WORKERS**

**\*302. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:**

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

- (a) whether Assam tea workers are prone to post-TB fungal infection and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the workers in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.  
302\* FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2025**

(a) and (b): There is no specific information available with the Government with regard to fungal infection in lungs post TB-treatment in tea garden workers. However, Government of India has implemented National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM) across all the States/UTs including Assam. The key steps taken to address TB are as under:

- Targeted interventions in high TB burden areas through State and District Specific Strategic plans.
- Provision of free drugs and diagnostics to TB patients.
- Intensified TB case-finding among vulnerable populations.
- Decentralization of TB screening and treatment services to the Ayushman Arogya Mandir.
- Private sector engagement with incentives for notification & management of TB cases.
- Scaling up of molecular diagnostic laboratories to sub-district levels.
- Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana of Rs 1,000 per month per patient as nutritional support for the entire duration of treatment.
- Intensified Information, Education & Communication (IEC) interventions to reduce stigma, enhance community awareness and improve health seeking behaviour.
- Provision of TB Preventive Treatment to contacts of TB patients and vulnerable population.
- Tracking of notified TB cases through Ni-kshay portal.
- Provision of additional nutritional support to TB patients and household contacts under Ni-kshay Mitra initiative.

In addition, Assam National Health Mission (NHM) has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tea Garden Hospitals under Public Private Partnership (PPP) to provide health care services for all the employees of tea gardens and its adjoining areas.

Further, the State Government of Assam has taken the following steps for tea garden workers:

- Free diagnosis and treatment of TB through tea garden health facilities.
- Transformation of 354 tea garden health facilities into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs under the National Health Mission (NHM), Assam.
- Provide comprehensive primary healthcare to tea garden population through dedicated Mobile Medical Units (MMUs).
- Awareness Programme on Health through Directorate of Tea Tribes and Adivasi Welfare.

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