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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3485
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2025

AI TOOLS FOR TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING

3485. SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the States and Union Territories have been asked to use untested AI tools for TB screening despite the fact that these were not recommended for programmatic implementation and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the States and Union Territories were asked to use only DeepCXR tool only in the end January of 2025 and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that it has become impossible to achieve the goal of elimination of TB by 2025 and if so the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c) The Government has adopted Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools which have been tested and validated by Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR). DeepCXR tool has been recommended by ICMR to the government and is available free of cost to the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). The same has been adopted for use under the programme.

The Government implements National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM). The efforts of Government of India has been acknowledged by WHO's Global TB Report 2024 on the following achievements:

- The incidence rate of TB in India has shown a 17.7% decline from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 195 per lakh population in 2023.
- TB deaths reduced by 21.4% from 28/lakh population in 2015 to 22/lakh population in 2023.
- TB treatment coverage in India increased by 32% from 53% in 2015 to 85% in 2023.
- India's efforts in ensuring last-mile delivery of quality health services at the grass-roots have been acknowledged in this report.

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