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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4727
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th MARCH, 2025

USE OF AI FOR ERADICATION OF TB

4727. ADV K. FRANCIS GEORGE:

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

(a) whether the Government is leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to aid India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme in achieving the 2025 TB-free target;

(b) if so, the details of AI-driven TB screening or diagnostic initiatives introduced in public health facilities, including any pilot programs using computer-aided chest X-ray detection for TB;

(c) whether the Ministry has partnered with or evaluated solutions from private AI health firms (such as those providing automated X-ray analysis) for integration into TB control efforts in the country and if so, the details of the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expand or support these AI interventions across high TB-burden districts under Government schemes?

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

(a) to (d) The Government has adopted Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, validated and recommended by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for chest X-ray namely DeepCXR tool and for Line Probe Assay (LPA) for automated reading, recording and entry of LPA results.

Further, NTEP, has adopted DeepCXR tool for automated reading of chest X-ray, which is available free of cost to the Government. This has been deployed in eight State/UTs under the programme for automated reading of chest X-ray under NTEP among presumptive cases of TB.

A 100-days intensified TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan was launched on 7th December 2024 in 347 priority districts of the country. For screening of vulnerable population, tools like AI driven hand-held X-rays were used in various States to support the programme in screening of vulnerable individuals for TB.

To enhance the availability of hand-held X-rays in high burden areas, the government has approved procurement for central supplies, and these hand-held Xrays are to be used in the states with adopted Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to screen the presumptive cases for TB.

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