

healthcare, support is being provided to States/UTs for strengthening of their healthcare system based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans.

Government of India is implementing National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) under the National Health Mission. The objectives of the programme include awareness generation, providing diagnosis and treatment facilities through different levels of healthcare by setting up NCD Clinics in District Hospitals and Community Health Centres (CHCs).

For early diagnosis, population level initiative of prevention, control and screening of common NCDs (diabetes, hypertension and cancers *viz.* oral, breast and cervical cancer) has been rolled out in over 100 districts of the country in 2017-18 under. This will help in early diagnosis/treatment leading to reduce complications due to diabetes and financial burden on the Diabetic patients.

The Central Government, through its hospitals augments the efforts of the State Governments for providing health services in the country. Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), 6 new AIIMS have been set up and upgradation of identified medical colleges has been undertaken which will also improve tertiary care facilities for NCDs including Diabetes.

Quality generic medicines are being made available at affordable prices to all, under 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme', in collaboration with the State Governments.

Under National Health Mission Free Drugs and Free Diagnostic initiative, essential drugs and diagnostics are provided free of cost in public health facilities.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also started AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) stores where essential life-saving medicines are being provided at a substantial discount *vis-a-vis* the Maximum Retail Price.

Speeding up diagnostics and treatment of TB

1694. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government during last three years to reduce the TB related deaths since it is a fact that one third of world's deaths due to TB is from India; and

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to increase the speed of diagnostics and treatment, as many deaths are attributed to delay in treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme is implemented by the Ministry with key focus areas as under:

- strengthening and improving quality of basic TB services
- addressing TB HIV co-infection, other co-morbidities and MDR-TB
- engaging with care providers both in the public and in the private sector
- targeted intervention in the vulnerable population and strengthening urban TB control along with active case finding activities
- scaling up of newer molecular diagnostics for TB (CBNAAT) in the health system, for early diagnosis of MDR TB
- leveraging of Information Communication Technology (ICT) for enhancing TB notification and strengthening of monitoring.

(b) The Ministry has developed "The National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB 2017-25; Elimination by 2025", as envisaged in the National Health Policy. In addition to the existing strategies under RNTCP, the policy focuses on 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. For early detection and diagnosis of TB, under the programme following laboratory infrastructure has been established:

- Designated Microscopy Centers: 14756
- Certified Culture & DST laboratories: 71
- 628 Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) are deployed and 50 machines under pipeline.

Additionally, the NSP also envisages active case finding which is basically a provider initiated activity with the primary objective of reaching the population who do not tend to *Seek* healthcare so as to detect TB cases early.