

services during & post COVID-19 Pandemic" states that "Mother and baby to be nursed together as far as possible and breastfeeding to be initiated within 1 hour of delivery, irrespective of COVID status. However, she should put on facemask and practice hand hygiene before each feeding".

3. A communication dated 27th July 2020, sent to all the States and UTs on the occasion of celebration of "World Breastfeeding Week" to promote breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF), wherein continuation of breastfeeding has been recommended for all newborns regardless of the COVID status of newborn and mother.
4. A decision tree for guiding the health care providers on supporting the lactating mothers in breastfeeding amid COVID-19 pandemic has also been shared with all States and UTs. It has been emphasized that every mother should be supported for initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months and continuing breastfeeding and complimentary feeding thereafter irrespective of COVID status.

In addition, this decision tree provides step-by-step guidance to healthcare workers on how to support mothers with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 to breastfeed. It also provides advice on what to do if mother is not well enough to breastfeed, as well as appropriate hygiene measures for mother, including wearing a medical mask, frequent hand washing and regular cleaning and disinfection of the surfaces to reduce the possibility of the COVID-19 virus being spread to her infant.

#### **Tele-consultation service for CGHS beneficiaries**

266. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has commenced a tele-consultation service for CGHS beneficiaries with specialist doctors in view of the COVID-19 pandemic to help them from various quarters, including senior citizens; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Tele-consultation facility for consultation with specialist doctors under Medicine. Orthopaedics,

Ophthalmology and ENT Specialties has been initiated for the benefit of CGHS beneficiaries w.e.f. 25th August 202. This facility is presently available in Delhi/ National Capital Region.

CGHS beneficiaries can avail this facility through e-Sanjeevani platform of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through their registered mobile phone number. The details regarding the steps to be followed have been circulated to the CGHS Wellness centres and are also available in public domain on the website of CGHS.

#### **Testing of TB patients for COVID-19**

267. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has advised for all newly diagnosed TB patients or those currently on treatment should be tested for Covid-19;

(b) whether Government has any plan to give special medical care to such patients with TB; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Yes. Government has advised COVID-19 testing for all newly diagnosed TB patients and those currently on treatment.

(b) and (c) Yes, for management of TB-COVID co-morbid patients, all COVID positive TB patient are admitted to a Dedicated COVID Care Centre/ Dedicated COVID Health Centre/ Dedicated COVID Hospital (level as per severity).

#### **New healthcare scheme for COVID-19 victims**

268. LT.GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.): Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce new healthcare scheme for the victims of COVID-19;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria laid down for getting the benefits by the victims; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose, State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh?