

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 16th March, 2021/25 Phalgun, 1942(Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware, our country has embarked upon an ambitious endeavour on the issue of Tuberculosis, to end Tuberculosis in the country by 2025, five years ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goals Target of 2030. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has already taken several initiatives for combating TB, like improving the reach and quality of diagnostic services, introduction of all-oral regimen, introduction of newer drugs, financial support for nutrition, extensive multi-sectoral and private sector engagement, among other such initiatives.

The TB control is also gaining momentum in rural areas with the availability of rapid molecular diagnostics at the block levels for accurate and decentralized detection of TB. Active Case Finding Campaigns of house-to-house search for TB cases among mapped vulnerable populations has helped bridge the gap of 'missing million' and TB services have been expanded through Ayushman Bharat and Wellness Centres. The Ministry has also called for a Jan Andolan on TB, aimed at mass awareness generation and successive behavior change of the community.

Hon. Members, we have adequate diagnostic and medical supplies, but what is of utmost importance is timely diagnosis and disciplined drug administration for which mass awareness plays a major role. As Members of Parliament, as representatives of the people, we have a larger role cut out for ourselves, towards the people we serve. It is our duty to work collaboratively with and through communities, to bring about much needed behavior changes and provision of more patient-friendly services.

I urge the Members to extend cooperation and support TB control efforts in your respective States and serve as catalysts of change in building and strengthening supportive systems in the fight against TB, to eradicate it from our country by 2025.
