

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.923
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

TUBERCULOSIS CRISIS IN INDIA

923 DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

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

- (a) whether Government will be able to achieve its set target of eliminating all tuberculosis (TB) cases by 2025
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any special step to manage the TB crisis in the country amidst the pandemic and rising malnutrition cases
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor and
- (d) whether TB crisis has worsened because of the pandemic and whether Government has conducted any research to assess the same?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a): The Government of India is committed to End TB by 2025. Ministry has developed the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis (2017-2025) with the goal of ending TB by 2025.
- (b) & (c): Multiple steps have been taken by National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) to mitigate COVID-19 pandemic impact on TB Services. The Government has taken the following measures to ensure affordable and accessible treatment to TB patients:
 - i. Provision of free TB drugs of extended duration and door-step delivery
 - ii. Guidance on ensuring functionality of TB diagnostic labs
 - iii. Issuing multiple advisories to States and districts to ensure uninterrupted services during COVID-19
 - iv. Guidance for Bi-directional TB-COVID screening and screening of TB among ILI/SARI cases issued to State/UTs

To combat with malnutrition in TB patients government of India initiated the Nikshay Poshan Yojana for providing financial assistance for nutrition support at rate of Rs. 500/- per month has been initiated since April 2018. Till 31st December'20, payment has been made to over 38.26 lakh patients worth Rs. 945.60 crores.

- (d): Currently there is no evidence to suggest an increase in the incidence of TB cases as a result of the pandemic.