

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1733
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2024**

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OF TB PATIENTS

1733. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether a study on thousands of TB patients across four States revealed shockingly high rate of catastrophic costs, with most of them experiencing financial hardship due to delays in diagnosis and income loss because of unemployment during long TB treatment;
- (b) whether reason of much higher pre-treatment cost of extra-pulmonary TB patients was expenses incurred in tests for confirming TB, as they were not available in Government hospitals and patients relied on private labs for these tests; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to establish free of cost labs in Government hospitals for early diagnosis of TB, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is implemented under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM). Keeping in view costs attached to TB treatment, the programmatic interventions of NTEP ensure free screening, free diagnostics and free treatment for TB and Extra-pulmonary TB, at all public health facilities across the country. To provide services closer to the community, TB services have been decentralized to the level of Ayushman Arogya Mandir. In addition, the programme provides financial assistance of ₹500 per month during the course of treatment and in-kind nutritional support through Ni-kshay Mitras.
