

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3831  
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000  
TREATMENT OF T.B.  
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

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

- (a) whether the Government have failed to properly detect and arrange mass treatment for TB;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any programme has been prepared on similar lines as the anti-polio campaign by the Government to combat this disease;
- (d) if not, the reasons for lethargic approach to the virulent prevalence of this disease in the country; and
- (e) the steps proposed to launch a mass campaign to combat TB in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (e): No, Sir. The National TB Control Programme (NTCP) aims to achieve early detection of TB cases and their effective treatment. This programme is integrated with the General Health Services and is being implemented throughout the country through 446 District TB Centres, 330 TB Clinics and a number of Peripheral Health Institutions. There are 47,600 TB beds under this programme. 100% of the requirement of anti TB drugs is also provided by the Government of India.

Based on the findings of a review of the TB Programme in 1992, Government of India evolved a Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) with the objective of curing at least 85% of sputum positive cases and detecting at least 70% of these cases. This programme is based on high quality sputum microscopy and treatment which is Directly Observed (DOT) to ensure that the patient takes his full course of treatment. Under this programme, quality of diagnosis has been good and sputum conversion rate remains high at 87%. Currently the programme covers 180 million population, which is expected to increase to 400 million by 2002.