

New Delhi, March 13 (IPR) 'Delhi End TB Summit' innovation and action to end TB was held at Vigyan Bhawan where Minister for Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department Mr. Arjun Kumar Ghatani underlined the perspectives and commitment of the state govt. to eliminate TB in Sikkim by 2022.

He outlined the existing scenario of Tuberculosis in the state of Sikkim and urged the union govt. to provide all necessary support to march towards control and elimination of TB by 2022. The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shri Vishal Chauhan, IAS and ADHS-cum-STO, State TB Cell (RNTCP) Sikkim Dr. Debya Shree Kerongi.

The inaugural session of "Delhi End TB Summit" was graced by the Hon`ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi as the Chief Guest who officially inaugurated the session. Prime Minister Mr. Modi launched TB free India Campaign and made his commitment to eliminate TB from India by 2025, five years ahead of Sustainable Development Goal of 2030. He marked the summit as a landmark event and as a significant step towards humanity and complete elimination of TB. An additional amount of Rs. 100 (one hundred) million have been allocated in the recent budget session in the Parliament to provide nutritious support to TB patients in the country, he informed. Prime Minister stressed on the need of Multi-sectoral intervention as an indispensable part in this joint venture and stated that the union Govt. is working comprehensively towards the goal and urged frontline workers to gear up with best level of effort to achieve target of eliminating TB by 2025.

PM also mentioned that he has personally written to various Chief Ministers to join in this campaign. TB has crucial impact on life of people, society and economy so we have to be united to combat TB, he said. PM also gave various examples of Swachh Bharat and Mission Indradhanush campaigns to reiterate how the union govt. is focused and is working towards its targets.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Dr Nila F Moeloek, Minister of Health, Indonesia; Mr. Issac Fadewole Minister of Health Nigeria, Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO.

Later, addressing the parallel session chaired by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mr. J. P. Nadda in presence of Union Minister of State Smt. Anupriya Patil , Mr.Arjun Kumar Ghatani said that under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Hon`ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Pawan Chamling, the state of Sikkim is fully committed to eliminate TB by 2022. He said that the state has been preparing a comprehensive elimination strategy to involve all stakeholders, public representatives, communities and civil societies to achieve the commitment made during the recent Assembly Budget Session.

The Minister informed that all Investigations including blood tests, X-rays, CT Scan & MRI are free with provisions of free inpatient admissions in Sikkim. District hospitals and the PHCs have been provided with facilities for the management of TB patients. He briefed on the Hon`ble

Chief Minister's seriousness towards prevention and control of TB in the state and informed about his recent announcement to supplement the ongoing RNTCP in the state. He also threw light on the upcoming 127 bedded Isolation Chest and Respiratory Disease Ward within a newly constructed 1000 bedded multi-specialty hospital in the state capital.

Mr. Ghatani also underlined Focus group discussion (FGD) held at grass root level followed by district level workshop and State Level Workshop "Towards Elimination of TB in Sikkim by 2022" on 7th and 8th date of this month . The final strategic plan for the state will be ready by 15th April 2018, he added. He echoed to remain united and rededicate to move towards elimination of TB in India.

Replying to the commitments and perspectives of health ministers from various states Union Health Minister Mr. Nadda suggested to adopt pragmatic approach in coordination of centre and state. He advised to carryout micro planning in community participation. He further suggested to come out with strategic plans to bring foot soldiers, community and health professionals in the same platform to sought out and address the issues for eliminating TB.

The parallel session was also addressed by the health ministers from the state of Rajasthan, Bihar, UP, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

Secretary Health Mr. Vishal Chauhan and STO Dr. DS Kerongi also participated in the interaction with other states on RNTCP chaired by Secretary Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

