

सुनील कुमार, आई.ए.एस.

सचिव

Sunil Kumar, IAS

Secretary



भारत सरकार
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड,
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
Dated 6th March, 2023

D.O. No.I-18/22/2021-General Coordination

Dear Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary,

This has reference to this Ministry's letters of even number dated 22/9/2022 and 28/2/2023 from Economic Adviser in the Ministry in connection with mission on TB elimination from the country and 'TB Mukta Panchayat' and role of PRIs.

2. With a view to enhancing and intensifying our country's collective and relentless fight against the dreadful disease and its elimination from the country by 2025, as a major step towards eliminating TB from India by 2025, a novel initiative "TB Mukta Panchayat" is scheduled to be launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24th March, 2023 with objectives to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions to realise the extent and magnitude of problems associated with TB, take necessary actions towards addressing these problems, create healthy competition amongst Panchayats to eliminate TB and to publically appreciate their contributions. The steps to declare any Panchayat as TB Mukta Panchayat has been formulated by the Central TB Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

3. In this regard, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has joined hands with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHF&W) to take forward the "TB Mukta Panchayat" initiative in rural India that targets to achieve the health-specific Sustainable Development Goal target related to TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030. MoPR has entered into an MoU with MoHF&W (Central TB Division) to facilitate Inter-Ministerial cooperation and collaboration to focus on creating awareness at grassroots level through active involvement of Panchayats / Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC), and also to support a range of possible collaborative activities towards the eventual eradication of TB from India by the year 2025.

4. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has adopted a thematic approach for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) at the grassroots level through empowering Panchayats and other relevant stakeholders in Rural Areas. Vision of Theme 2 of LSDGs i.e. Healthy Panchayat is to ensure healthy lives and wellbeing for all at all ages in rural areas, including a bold commitment to end the epidemic of Tuberculosis by 2030. State/ UT Departments of Panchayati Raj have been sensitized and oriented about the upcoming launch of "TB Mukta Panchayat" initiative.

5. In view of the importance of the "TB Mukta Panchayat" initiative, I would like to solicit your personal intervention to arrange for dissemination of information regarding "TB Mukta Panchayat" initiative in all Panchayats and call upon the elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions to proactively participate in this National endeavour. The major steps envisaged to declare any Panchayat as TB Mukta as communicated by the MoHFW is as at Annexure.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

SN
6.3.23
(Sunil Kumar)

Encl.: As above.

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary,
Department of Panchayati Raj, All States / UTs (except Chandigarh and Delhi)

ANNEXURE

A. The major steps envisaged to declare any Panchayat TB Mukht are as follows:

Step 1- Introductory meeting of GPs

- District Panchayat meeting will be conducted at District level for all Block Panchayats where District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) and District Panchayati Raj Officer (DPRO) jointly address the meeting on TB Mukht Panchayat Initiative.
- Similarly, meeting of all GPs will be conducted at block level where District Tuberculosis Officer or his representative and District Panchayati Raj Officer or his representative will address.
- DTOs/DPRO or their representatives will explain the concept and do capacity building of Gram Panchayats on 'TB Mukht Panchayat'

Step 2- Preparation for TB Mukht status at GP Level

The GPs are to be prepared on TB Mukht Panchayat Status in coordination with District TB cell. The major activities required are:

- At least twice in a year community awareness campaign on various aspects of TB such as symptoms of TB, diagnostic health facilities available, treatment adherence, prevention, stigma reduction and various benefits provided by Government for TB patients.
- Inclusion of TB free activities in Panchayat Development Plans (PDP).
- Disseminating of TB messages through displays and events (street plays, wall paintings, posters, banners, etc.) in high footfall areas.
- Observe World TB Day in their villages through awareness activities.
- Arrange nutritional support for TB patients as a part of 'Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat initiative'.
- Quarterly monitoring by GP on pre-requisites for "TB Mukht status" in Gram Sabha meetings and review based on the checklist during JAS & VHSNC meeting to track ongoing TB activities
- Map the resources to address problems identified for effective management of TB.

Step 3- GP Submit Claims to District Tuberculosis Officer through Block Panchayat.

- After receipt of claims from GPs, the Block Panchayat will submit a list of all eligible GP for TB Mukht Panchayat to District Tuberculosis officer (DTO) with all relevant documents on pre-requisite indicators for verification in first half of January every Year.
- Similarly, for the Block Panchayat award, the application will be filed with District Tuberculosis Officer.

Step 4-Verification of Claims by District TB Team:

- All the claims submitted by GP/Block will be verified by District TB team consists of State Tuberculosis Officer or his representative, Chief Medical Officer, District Tuberculosis officer, Representative from District Panchayat and from Indian Medical Association.
- District team initiates verification process to certify the claim in the 1st quarter every year.
- Verification process include the record reviews, key informant/staff/patient interviews and observation.
- During Verification process, specified verification indicators will be scrutinized to complete certification process.
- Conditionality to declare TB Mukht Panchayat: **Mandatory Achievement in the Verification indicators:** Presumptive examination rate & Notification rate criteria must be achieved in more than 80% of the villages in Gram Panchayat. **Other Indicators for Achievement in the verification:** At least 3 out of the other 4 criteria to be achieved more than 80% in the Gram Panchayat/Block.

Step 5- TB Free status Declaration:

- The verified list of Gram Panchayat/Block who are eligible for TB Mukht certification will be submitted by District verification team to District Magistrate/District Collector/Deputy Commissioner.
- A Gram Panchayat/Block will be declared 'TB Mukht' if it fulfills the criteria enlisted under verified indicators in the revenue villages of Gram Panchayats.

Step 6-Issuance of Certification:

- Certificate will be issued to eligible Gram Panchayat/Block with One Year validity from the District Magistrate/District Collector/Deputy Commissioner on World TB Day i.e. 24th March every year.
- Along with the Certificate, a small statue of Mahatma Gandhi will also be awarded to TB Mukta Gram Panchayat/Block as a mark to his vision towards healthy villages.
- The statue will be offered of bronze colour for maintaining TB Mukta status for first 1 year, silver colour for continuous 2 years and gold colour for continuous 3 years.
- The TB free certification may also be displayed in the respective TB Mukta Panchayat Sadan/Bhawan.

Step 7- Recording and Reporting of TB Mukta Panchayat

- A state and district wise report of all GPs awarded TB Mukta Panchayat may be generated by states and shared with MoPR and CTD, MoHFW in the month of April every Year.

A Joint monitoring by MoPR and CTD, MoHFW will be carried out in timely manner to oversee the implementation of 'TB Mukta Panchayat' initiative.

B. The activities from Ministry of Panchayati Raj:

- Dissemination of advisories on 'TB Mukta Panchayat' to Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Panchayati Raj Department of Government/Administration of all States/UTs.
- Quarterly monitoring and reviewing from central level jointly by MoPR and CTD, MoHFW to oversee the progress made towards TB Mukta status and to ensure that TB related activities are implemented in a sustained manner in Panchayat level.

C. The activities from Central TB Division, MoHFW:

- Provide overall technical support for implementation of TB Mukta Panchayat initiative at central, state and district level.
- To share relevant IEC materials for further dissemination to Gram Panchayats.
- To prepare an operational Handbook on TB Mukta Panchayat.
