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Title : Need to eliminate TB completely.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): More than one out of five TB patients in the world happens to be a person living in India. It is estimated that annually in India, the disease afflicts about two million people and causing premature death of about three lakh people per year. Our country has made a dramatic response to this threat. The Revised National TB Control Programme, RNTCP, is the world's largest TB control programme which detects and treats over 1.5 million TB cases annually. But the agenda of TB control is unfinished, both at the global level and in India. The UN has called on world leaders and all stakeholders to attend the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit to be held from 20-22, September 2010. For India and for many other countries, it is important that the MDG-6 which calls for combating HIV-AIDS and other diseases including tuberculosis and malaria, is profiled and discussed at the MDG Summit. India should play an important leadership role at the Millennium Summit by showcasing the progress made in the country on TB control and by urging the global leaders and development partners for more research on new technologies and additional funding to realize the dream of TB elimination. I humbly request the Government to take the pro-active leadership role in this endeavour by attending the UN Summit along with a high powered team from India. I also request the Government to constitute a high powered committee at the national level involving parliamentarians, technical experts, NGOs and national programme managers to review the TB control efforts in the country and to develop a strategy for highlighting the needs for global TB control with special focus on India in the UN Summit.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Thomas about TB control programme.