

## ESL Steel Limited introduces a Nutritional Support Kit for identified Tuberculosis Patients in furthering benefits under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana in Chas and Chandankiyari

**Bokaro; 24th June 2024:** ESL Steel Limited, a Vedanta Group Company and India's leading integrated greenfield steel producer, continues its unwavering commitment to societal and community development. Acknowledged with numerous awards and felicitations from various national and international governmental bodies and NGOs, ESL Steel Limited prioritizes the well-being of the communities where it is present.

ESL Steel Limited continuing on its path of public welfare in communities it is present in, greatly focuses on healthcare as one of the core areas of interventions through its CSR initiatives. Under the aegis of its Flagship Healthcare initiative, Project AAROGYA executed by its implementing partner Citizens Foundation, has initiated a Nutritional Support Kit Programme for 100 identified Tuberculosis patients residing near ESL Steel Limited's plant in Siyaljori. It will henceforth support these patients with a monthly nutritional kit worth Rs 800 per individual during their entire treatment period.

“Poverty, food insecurity, undernutrition, overcrowding are major risk factors of tuberculosis (TB). Undernutrition is the leading risk factor in India, with almost half of the active TB cases attributable to undernutrition. Also, undernutrition can reduce the immunity of these patients, affect their treatment and tolerance to anti-tuberculosis therapy, and increase the risk of unfavorable TB treatment outcomes. Therefore, additional nutritional requirements for TB patients are essential, but these requirements also mean additional costs. To date such costs have hindered the End TB goal,” said Dr. Shiekh Mohammed Zafarullah, District Tuberculosis Officer, Bokaro while addressing the identified Tuberculosis patients and their caretakers who had come to collect the gains from the program organised under Project Aarogya.

At ESL Steel Limited's Primary Health Centre in Dhandabar Dr S M Zafarullah was present along with Mr. Nitin Kumar Singh, District PPM and in CHC, Chandankiyari MOIC Chandankiyari Dr. Tripti Pandey was present.

During his address, Dr S M Zafarullah further mentioned, “Hence, in India, all notified Patients with Tuberculosis (TB) who essentially have additional nutritional requirements are being supported with INR 500 monthly support during the period of anti-TB treatment under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) which is a Direct Benefit Transfer scheme under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) by Government.”

Before freezing on the direct Benefit Transfer Scheme by the Ministry many other support schemes were also tested and it was found that Nutrition support in kind was considered the best. It increased treatment success, reduced loss to follow-up, decreased death during treatment among patients with TB, and reduced the incidence of the disease among household contacts of a patient with TB. However, there were problems with its implementation due to which DBT was chosen over Nutritional Support in kind.

**Dr Shiekh Mohammed Zafarullah, District Tuberculosis Officer of Bokaro** who was present at the event along with **Mr Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Dy Head CSR, ESL Steel Limited**, appreciated the decision of ESL Steel Limited to provide an additional Nutritional Support Kit Programme under Project Aarogya. Through this program ESL Steel Limited will be providing Brown Chickpea (Kala Chana) 1.5 Kg; Split Chickpeas (Chana Dal) 3 Kg; Mustard Oil 1 liter; Peanuts (Moomphali) 1 Kg and Jagerry (Gud) 1 kg every month till the identified 100 patients from villages in Chas / Chandankiyari blocks which are under the operational zone of ESL Steel Limited around its plant in Siyaljori are under treatment. This is a 6-month nutrition support program for which in the first phase, the patients have been given a two-month nutrition support kit at a time. The remaining four months' kit will be given from the next month for the next four months. The idea is that this additional nutritional support will immensely benefit targeting all patients with TB or specific populations like older persons, household contacts of patients with TB or patients with TB and comorbidities and help in NTEP's stated goal of End TB in communities around our plant.

"Vedanta ESL is honoured to support the nation's tuberculosis eradication program through our healthcare project, Aarogya, with a dedicated nutrition distribution initiative for tuberculosis patients. Proper nutrition plays a crucial role in the recovery and overall well-being of those battling this disease. This program reflects our commitment to enhancing public health and underscores our appreciation for the resilience and strength of the patients and healthcare workers. Together, through the CSR healthcare initiative, Project Aarogya, we can make significant strides towards a tuberculosis-free future," said Shri Ashish Ranjan, Head, CSR, ER & PR of ESL Steel Limited.

#### **About Project AAROGYA:**

Project AAROGYA employs a hub-and-spoke model in collaboration with partner implementing agency Citizens Foundation and in convergence with the District Health Department. Key facilities include a Primary Healthcare Centre in Dhandabar village, a Mobile Health Unit visiting 27 villages, free medication and treatment, as well as sensitization and awareness camps on various health issues. Initiated in 2020, the project has positively impacted more than 150,000 villagers in the past three years.

The Dhandabar Health Care Centre provides free-of-cost doctor consultations, lab testing & free medications. Mobile Health Unit delivers preventive and curative health care facilities at the doorstep of villagers of all 27 operational areas.

#### **About Vedanta ESL Steel Limited:**

Located in Siyaljori village in the Bokaro district of Jharkhand, ESL is a leading manufacturer of steel products. It has a 2.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) greenfield integrated steel plant that produces pig iron, billets, TMT bars, wire rods, and ductile iron pipes. The plant works in sync with the prescribed environmental standards, bringing international expertise and solutions from reputed manufacturers to offer world-class services and products.

#### **About Citizens Foundation:**

Citizen's Foundation is a Civil Society Organization working in the development sector since 1997, focusing on Health, Livelihood, Natural Resource Management, Techno-Managerial Services, and Advocacy. Originating from its humble beginnings in Jharkhand it has expanded its outreach to other states such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Haryana touching the lives of more than 1 million Indians. Shri Ganesh Reddy is the CEO cum Founder of this organisation.





