

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2081

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

DRUG RESISTANT TB

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

- (a) whether the Multi Drug Resistant TB and XDR-TB are spreading in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether XDR-TB strain, mixing with the HIV/ AIDS, is causing high percentage of mortality ;
- (d) if so, the steps taken to cure and check the spread of the disease;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up Advanced Reference Test Labs exclusively to detect Drug Resistant TB; and
- (f) if so, the number of Test Labs setup or likely to be set up in the country, State-wise ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b) There is no evidence to suggest that Multi Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB) and/or Extensively Drug Resistance TB (XDR-TB) is spreading in the country. Results from Drug Resistance Surveys conducted since 1997 in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra indicate that there has been no increase in the level of MDR-TB, which continues to be about 3% in new TB cases and 10-20% in retreatment cases. As of now, there is no documented case of XDR-TB in the country.

(c) TB disease caused by XDR-TB strain is virtually incurable in any patient, with or without HIV infection. People infected with HIV are more vulnerable to all forms of TB, including XDR-TB, and are more likely to die from TB. This was recently reported in a hospital-based outbreak in South Africa. However, till date there has been no such case reported in India.

(d) MDR-TB and XDR-TB develop when TB patients are incompletely or inadequately treated. Therefore the first priority is prevention of the development of drug resistance by detection of TB patients and effective treatment as per RNTCP guidelines. The Phase-II Project Implementation Plan of the Revised National TB Control Programme

(RNTCP) has the full range of activities as recommended by the 2006 WHO Stop TB Strategy, which are needed to prevent the development of drug resistance. These activities first include the maintenance of good quality DOTS services for early detection and curing of drug susceptible TB cases. RNTCP has a system for making patients adhere to treatment and the cure rates within RNTCP have been in excess of the global benchmark of 85%. Furthermore, RNTCP has developed a system in accordance with international guidelines for the effective treatment of MDR-TB, which is currently being pilot tested in Gujarat and Maharashtra. To ensure that TB patients get standard diagnostic and treatment services as per RNTCP, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy.

(e)&(f) Yes. Currently TRC, Chennai, National TB Institute, Bangalore, and LRS Institute, Delhi have the capacity for conducting quality assured culture and drug susceptibility testing to detect MDR-TB. Under Phase-II of the RNTCP two laboratories one each in the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra have also been established.