

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1350
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

- (a) the prevalent methods being used for diagnosis of tuberculosis in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of a new alternative method that do not rely on sputum samples and correctly diagnose people, particularly children with TB disease;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to introduce the said test and other modern and affordable alternatives for TB diagnosis in th country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d): The diagnosis of tuberculosis patients under Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is mainly based on sputum smear microscopy conducted at quality assured Designated Microscopy Centers (DMC) spread across the country.

The RNTCP is also conducting TB diagnosis through culture and drug susceptibility test (DST) by solid and liquid culture and using modern methods like Line Probe Assay (LPA) and Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (CBNAAT).

Under RNTCP, sputum is the main sample used for the purpose of diagnosing tuberculosis of the lungs (Pulmonary Tuberculosis). For the purpose of diagnosing TB in organs other than the lungs (extra-pulmonary TB) or, in cases where a sputum sample cannot be obtained, other suitable testing techniques are used, for example, Histopathology, CBNAAT or Culture techniques.

All diagnostic facilities are provided free of cost under the programme.