

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:838
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
DRUG RESISTANT OF MALARIA / TUBERCULOSIS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a study conducted by Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai has revealed that Malaria and Tuberculosis are becoming drug-resistant;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to counter this new phenomenon effectively?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)

(a),(b)&(c):In the case of TB, Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai have stated that no evidence of an increase is observed in the prevalence of primary resistance over the year in patients with no history of previous treatment. But, there is a low level of prevalence of MDR-TB to the extent of 2-3% among such patients both in urban as well as in rural areas. Reports on higher prevalence of acquired resistance is usually seen only among patients with irregular treatment. The only effective means of stopping the increase in drug-resistant tuberculosis is to improve treatment of patients so that drug-resistant tuberculosis is not created. The Government of India has introduced a Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme using regimens which have proved to be very effective with low rate of emergence of/-

-2- resistance. The drugs are given under direct observation to ensure drug intake by the patients till cure. The programme is covering 140 million people and is expected to cover about 250 million during this year. The programme will cover the whole country in phases. This will ensure that the detected cases are effectively cured and drug resistance is stopped at its origin. In the case of Malaria, no information about drug resistance is available with the Department. However following steps have been taken for the containment of drug resistance problem in the country:-

(i) 13 Pf monitoring teams of National Anti Malaria Programme located in different Regional Offices for Health & F.W., Govt. of India are conducting drug sensitivity test in P.falciparum cases regularly.

(ii) Alternate drug is being provided to Pf. Resistance cases and the areas showing significant level of resistance are being covered under alternative drug for the treatment of Pf. Cases.

(iii) Drug policy has been changed and radical treatment is being adopted in the high-risk areas under revised drug policy.

(iv) Vector control measures are intensified in the high-risk areas which covers drug resistant foci too.

(v) IEC has been strengthened for enlisting community participation.