

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1196

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006

EXTENDING COVERAGE OF DOTS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Singh Baba Shri K.C.;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the number of T.B. patients who fall prey to it every year in the country;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) the number of persons put on Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS);
- (d) whether the entire country has been covered under DOTS;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (f) the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered under DOTS; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government for the eradication of TB.?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. A nationwide cross-sectional study was conducted in different zones of India to assess the prevailing epidemiological situation of TB in the country by estimating the Annual Risk of TB Infection (ARTI) between January 2000 and 2003. As per the study, the National ARTI is 1.5%. As per the estimate, there are around 168 new TB cases per lakh population in India totaling to nearly 18 lakh new TB cases per year.

(c): Since the launching of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) from 1997, over 63 lakhs patients have been put on DOTS.

(d) Yes Sir. By March, 2006 entire country has been covered under DOTS

(e) & (f) Do not arise.

(g) To control TB, with an objective to achieve cure rate of 85% of sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is WHO recommended strategy, was implemented in the country in a phased manner from 1997 and the entire country had been covered by March 2006. Under RNTCP diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 63.00 lakh patients on DOTS treatment, averting more than 11.33 lakh deaths. Every month more than 1.0 lakh patients are placed on DOTS. In 2005 alone, India placed more than 12.93 lakhs cases on DOTS, more than any country in a single year in the world. Overall performance of RNTCP has been excellent with cure/treatment completion rate consistently above 85% and death rate reduced to less than 5%. To increase accessibility of the masses to the facilities provided under the Programme, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy.