

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1198

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004

NEW MEDICINES TO CONTROL DRUG RESISTANT DISEASES

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

- (a) whether the cases of Malaria and TB have reappeared in drug -resistant forms in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to control the situation;
- (c) whether any efforts are being made to develop new medicines to combat the drug- resistant diseases ;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Drug resistant cases of Malaria and TB are being reported in India. In case of Malaria, Directorate of National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme has been constantly monitoring the drug resistant in *P. falciparum* to most commonly used drug chloroquine and other anti-malarial drugs through 13 Pf-monitoring teams located in different Regional Offices for Health and Family Welfare. Studies conducted by these teams have revealed resistance to chloroquine in *P.falciparum* in 228 Primary Health Centres in the country where alternative treatment with second line of treatment is being used as per the NVBDCP drug policy. Following control measures are being undertaken to control the situation:

- i) Change of drug policy.
- ii) Intensification of surveillance and prompt radical treatment with appropriate drug (as per the NVBDCP drug policy).
- iii) Intensification of vector measures to control transmission.
- iv) Close monitoring of drug resistant areas.

In case of Tuberculosis, Multi Drug Resistance - TB (MDR-TB) arises due to improper/irregular/inadequate treatment. It is the policy of the Government of India to control MDR TB by stopping it at its inception which is being done by adopting Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) under which more than 8 out of 10 cases cured by improving services. Under the Programme, drugs are given under direct observation which ensures complete and regular treatment and thus preventing MDR. As per sample surveys done in the country at different places, MDR in new cases is less than 3%.

(c) & (d) To combat the drug resistant in Malaria, the NVBDCP drug policy recommends the use of combination therapy i.e. Artesunate plus Sulfadoxine Pyremethamine as a second line of treatment for *P. falciparum* cases in chloroquine resistant areas.