

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3437
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the specific steps taken by the Government to contain the increasing incidences of tuberculosis including revised National Tuberculosis Programme;
- (b) the success achieved thereby so far;
- (c) whether the involvement of Non-Government Organisations in eradication of tuberculosis has yielded substantial benefits;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to control the spread of tuberculosis among the health workers as well?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a) The incidence of TB cases in the country is showing a declining trend. The estimated incidence of all cases per lakh population has come down from 184/lakh in 2001 to 168/lakh in 2007 (WHO Global TB report).

To control TB, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), based on the WHO recommended DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse) strategy, is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the country with an objective of detecting at least 70% of the estimated New Sputum Positive cases in the community and treatment success rate of at least 85%.

The programme has established a network of over 12700 microscopy centers and over 4 lakh treatment centres (DOT centres) across the country to ensure convenient, readily accessible and free quality diagnostic and treatment services. In addition to government health facilities the TB services are also being provided through a number of NGOs, Private Practitioners (PPs) and Community based organizations involved with the programme.

(b) Since its inception, nearly 12 million TB patients have been put on treatment by RNTCP resulting in saving more than 2 million additional lives. The programme has been consistently achieving a case detection rate of more than 70% and treatment success rate of more than 85% in line with the global targets for TB control. As a result of the intensive efforts of the programme the prevalence of TB in the country has been significantly brought down from 586 per lakh population in 1990 to 283 per lakh population in 2007. During the same period the programme has been successful in reducing the mortality due to TB from 42 per lakh population to 24 per lakh population (WHO Global TB Report 2009)

(c) & (d) The objective of the programme is to control TB and in this endeavor, the programme is actively involving Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Private Practitioners (PPs), Civil Society Organizations, Professional Medical Associations etc. These organizations have delivered unquantifiable benefits to the programme by enhancing its reach and visibility and ensuring access of TB services to community in general and marginalized and vulnerable populations in particular.

(e) The programme is taking all possible measures for early detection and treatment of TB cases to reduce the transmission of the disease and the associated risk to the contacts of TB patients including health workers.

The programme has also developed guidelines on 'Air-borne infection control' which promote various measures (e.g. adequate ventilation) at health care facilities to reduce transmission of TB. In addition, as an integral part of the RNTCP training the health workers are sensitized on practicing universal precautions and other safety measures to mitigate the risk to health workers providing care to TB patients.