

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:993

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011

DRUG RESISTANT SUPERBUG

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the reports of the cases of drug resistant superbug named New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1 (NDM-1) allegedly originated in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action in the matter including against those who were part of the said research done by a British medical journal and also responsible for transfer of the biomedical material outside the country without prior permission of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to contest such findings by verifying/examining the existence of the superbug named after the national capital?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

- (a) & (b) In the past one year, two articles were published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases where the presence of carbapenem resistant enterobacteriasceae due to a metallo beta lactamase enzyme – NDM-1 (New Delhi metallo beta lactamase – 1) had been reported and the origin of this bacteria had been traced back to India and Pakistan. The Government has denied this allegation as the origin of NDM-1 from India has not been conclusively proved in these articles. Besides, as per information published by WHO, USA has reported cases of NDM-1 in three States and Canada in three provinces, Australia, Belgium, Japan, Sweden and Vietnam have all reported cases.
- (c) & (d) Office of the Drug Controller General of India (India) issued notice to eight doctors involved in the study.
- (e): Government has denied these reports through newspapers and other media, presenting detailed scientific response to this erroneous interpretation of the authors.