

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:431
ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011
DETECTION OF TUBERCULOSIS
Abdulrahman Shri ;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has termed the commonly used methodology to detect Tuberculosis (TB) as unreliable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the prevalent systems for TB detection in the country alongwith the action taken/proposed by the Government in the wake of the above WHO report;
- (d) whether the WHO has recommended use of certain other testing system for the detection of TB; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed by the Government to find affordable alternatives for TB diagnosis in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 431 FOR 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2011

(a) to (e): Serological tests (based on blood samples), which are commonly used by the private sector for diagnosis of Tuberculosis (TB), have been termed unreliable by World Health Organization (WHO) because of their inconsistent and imprecise sensitivity and specificity.

Sputum smear microscopy which is recommended by WHO, is the best available diagnostic tool to detect TB and is used under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP).

The TB Division under the Directorate General of Health Services in the Ministry has issued an advisory to all concerned including State Governments and Indian Medical Association (IMA) endorsing the advice of WHO against the use of serological tests.

In addition to sputum smear microscopy, sputum culture (in solid and liquid media) and Line Probe Assay (LPA) have also been recommended by WHO for diagnosis of TB and are used under RNTCP. However, sputum microscopy is the most affordable, user friendly and widely used test for the diagnosis of TB. Smear microscopy facilities are provided under RNTCP through 13,000 Designated Microscopy Centres (DMCs) located in the health care centres/ hospitals in the Government and other sectors.