

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5003

ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011

DRUGS TO FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC) has unearthed chemical compounds that have the potential to be developed into drugs to fight Tuberculosis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the TRC has urged the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to fund animal and human trials to realise the above potential;
- (d) if so, the financial assistance asked for the purpose alongwith the response of the ICMR thereto; and
- (e) the time by which the drug is likely to be made available to the patients suffering from Tuberculosis?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): Yes. A molecule Tnasitmycin has been isolated and characterized from a novel marine Streptomyces Sp. from the coral deposit of Rameswaram coast. It has the potential of anti TB activity against drug sensitive, MDR & XDR strains and also against dormant TB bacilli. In addition, it exhibits anti HIV activity properties against all including drug resistant forms of HIV. It also exhibits anticancer activity.
- (c): The National Institute of Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai (earlier named as TRC) has submitted a proposal to ICMR Headquarters to pursue the research on this aspect.
- (d): The proposal would be examined as a part of translational research.
- (e): If the conventional methods are followed, the research on drug molecule generally takes 8 to 10 years for the drug to be available for human use.