

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2886  
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012  
TUBERCULOSIS AMONG WOMEN AND BIDI WORKERS  
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

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

- (a) whether there is high prevalence and mortality rate associated with tuberculosis among the women and bidi workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of women suffering from TB and died therefrom in comparison to men during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to control TB and funds spent therefor and the success achieved as a result thereof during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the action plan prepared/proposed by the Government to control TB incidences, particularly among women and bidi workers in coordination with international agencies and NGOs?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a)&(b) There is no evidence with the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) of high prevalence and mortality associated with tuberculosis among women and bidi manufacturers in the country.

(c) The number of women suffering from TB and deaths therefrom in comparison to men among the New Smear Positive patients during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise are given in Annexure I.

(d) The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented as a

100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the entire country among the urban as well as rural areas.

Under the programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including anti TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients. For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centers have been established for every one lac population in the general areas and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. More than 13000 microscopy centers have been established in the country. Drugs are provided under direct observation and the patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment.

The funds spent under the programme during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise are given at Annexure II.

The achievements of the programme during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise are given in Annexure III.

(e) The programme has adopted a policy to provide access and facilitate utilization of TB control services to all TB patients including women and bidi workers.

To control the TB incidences the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the entire country.

Under the programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including a supply of anti TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients irrespective of sex, creed and socioeconomic status.

For better delivery of services Community Volunteers, Anganwadi workers, Women Self Groups etc. function as Community DOT Providers/DOT Centers having flexi-timing. Provisions for work-place DOT centers have also been made.

Further, to enhance access of programme services in general to all TB patients including women and bidi workers various NGOs and International Agencies are involved under the RNTCP.