

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

TOTALLY DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS

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

- (a) whether the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has expressed concern over the total drug-resistant cases of tuberculosis (TDR-TB) emerging in the country and the Government inertia in tackling the issue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of TDR-TB cases recently detected across the country including Maharashtra, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the emergence of new cases of TDR-TB alongwith the response plan prepared by the Government to control TDR-TB across the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to restructure the ongoing National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP) to plug any loopholes so as to tackle the cases of TDR-TB; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to establish accredited laboratories for testing the second line of anti-TB drugs and start public awareness campaign for regular treatment of TB?

Answer

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

(a)to(e) No. In the terminology of WHO, the term "totally drug-resistant tuberculosis (TDR-TB)" does not exist. Cases of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) are sporadically reported in the country. Recently 12 cases of XDR-TB were reported in Mumbai.

The Government of India introduced diagnosis and management of cases of drug-resistant TB in 2007. The diagnosis and treatment protocols for all forms of drug-resistant TB including XDR-TB have been developed, disseminated and are in-force in the country. 37 accredited quality-assured culture and drug susceptibility testing laboratories to diagnose drug-resistant TB cases and 50 specialized wards with air-borne infection control measures for initiation and monitoring of such TB patients on treatment are functional in the country. Quality-assured diagnosis and drugs for treatment of drug-resistant TB cases are provided free of cost to all confirmed drug-resistant TB cases registered under the programme.

All states/UTs have introduced services with variable access across 260 districts in the country. A cumulative total of 6994 drug-resistant TB cases have been put on treatment in the country under Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP). The Ministry is continuously monitoring these services in the country.

Government of India has laid emphasis on early diagnosis and complete treatment of drug-sensitive TB cases under RNTCP to prevent emergence of drug-resistant TB. Public awareness campaigns are inbuilt into the programme and the same are carried out on a continuous basis at National, states and the districts level.