

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5860
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2012
DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS
Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to ban serological tests and kits for diagnosis of tuberculosis in line with a World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to recommend alternative tests including Xpert MTB/FUF diagnostic test for screening tuberculosis patients in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, because currently available commercial serological tests provide inconsistent and imprecise estimates of sensitivity and specificity and these tests should not be used for the diagnosis of pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB.

(c) Sputum smear microscopy which is recommended by WHO, is used for diagnosis of tuberculosis under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme.