

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1267

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012

DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS

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

- (a) whether various diagnostic tool used by the private sector for diagnosis of Tuberculosis (TB) are reliable in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement an incentive linked plan to detect TB and cover the patients receiving treatment in the private sector under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for timely and accurate diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a)&(b) The tests approved by the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) for diagnosis of TB include sputum microscopy, X-ray Chest, Solid & Liquid Culture methods and Rapid molecular tests. Available evidence indicates that besides the tests mentioned above the private sector heavily relies on serological tests for diagnosis of TB.

As per the WHO recommendation, the 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.

The Government of India has imposed a ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution, use and import of serological diagnostic tests for TB in India as per the Government of India Gazette Notification Nos. G.S.R. 432 (E) and G.S.R. 433 (E) dated 7th June 2012.

(c)&(d) RNTCP already has NGO/PP (Private Practitioner) Schemes in place for involvement of private sector such as the Designated Microscopy Centre Scheme; Treatment Adherence Scheme; Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization (ACSM) Scheme etc. to detect TB and cover the patients receiving treatment in the private sector.

(e) The RNTCP has already approved newer rapid molecular diagnostic test for timely and accurate diagnosis of TB in the country. Besides these, Community involvement and Advocacy, Communication & Social Mobilization (ACSM) activities are being undertaken for early referral of TB suspects for diagnosis of TB.