

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:205

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS

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

- (a) the number of cases of Tuberculosis (TB) and Extensively Drug-Resistant TB (XDR-TB) reported and those died therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, gender and State/UTwise;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to control the rising number of cases of TB and XDR-TB in the country;
- (c) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended against the commercial serological tests for diagnosis of tuberculosis which is prevalent in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the follow up action taken/proposed by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the other reliable and affordable diagnostic tests for TB detection proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) The number of cases of Tuberculosis (TB) reported and those died there from during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise is at Annexure I.

The number of cases of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) reported and those died there from during 2012 (the diagnostic and treatment services for Extensively Drug Resistant TB (XDR-TB) were initiated in 2012) State/UT-wise is at Annexure II. Gender-wise information is not collected routinely.

(b) 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 lakh 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 RNTCP recognizes the treatment of patient of Drug Resistant TB as a standard of care. Under the RNTCP the best way to prevent emergence of DR-TB is to implement quality DOTS services.

To diagnose and treat patients who develop drug resistant TB, the Programme has rolled out the Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant TB (PMDT) Services in the country since 2007.

(c) Yes.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.