

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:132

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

DETECTION OF TB CASES

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo; Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether India accounts for the highest number of Tuberculosis (TB) and Multi Drug Resistant (MDR)-TB cases in the world and if so, the details and the reasons therefor indicating the number of TB and MDR-TB patients in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether as per the World Health Organisation's World TB Report 2013, a number of TB patients go undetected/unreported in India and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government to reach the TB/MDR-TB cases missed in national notification systems by expanding access to quality testing and care services across the country;
- (d) whether the global health activists have criticised the Indian Government for large number of TB related deaths and shortage of anti-TB drugs in the recently concluded World Conference on Lung Health in Paris; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to address the concerns raised by the activists at the said Conference?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 132 FOR 13TH DECEMBER, 2013

India does account for the highest number of TB and MDR-TB cases in the world. Though the incidence rates of TB and MDR-TB are low in our country as compared to other countries, this translates to a high absolute number of cases, given the size of our population.

The prevalence of Drug Sensitive TB has been brought down from 465/ lakh population (1990) to 230/ lakh population in 2012 and TB mortality in the country has reduced from over 38/lakh population in 1990 to 22/lakh population in 2012 as per the WHO global report 2013.

State/UT wise number of TB cases and MDR-TB cases treated under the Revised National TB Control Programme in 2012 are as per Annexure I & II respectively.

As per World Health Organisation's World TB Report 2013, globally there are 2.9 million missed cases (either not diagnosed, or diagnosed but not reported to the national TB programs). 31% of these cases are estimated to be in India. Missed cases are distinct from cases not found, or cases found and lost. It is likely that with a large private sector of healthcare in India, a large proportion of this subgroup were diagnosed and treated in private sector, but were not notified to the Programme.

Government of India has already issued an Order in 2012 for mandatory notification of all TB cases diagnosed or treated by all health facilities (public and private) in India. Online case based web based software (Nikshay) has also been developed by the Government to facilitate TB notification to capture all missing cases.

During a recent Conference on Lung Health and Tuberculosis at Paris, organized by the International Union, a presentation by India in one of the sessions was interrupted by about eight to ten activists.. Similar interruption had been also made by the same activists, in much larger numbers, in the main opening session (where India was not involved and the speakers were from WHO and other international organizations) to focus attention on Zero TB deaths and Zero TB infections in the world and seeking greater role and commitment from all National Governments, World Health Organization and other stakeholders for the same.

After the brief interruption, the presentation by our representative was resumed. The issues raised by the activists were squarely addressed by him. It was explained that under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), quality diagnosis and anti-tuberculosis drugs are provided free of cost. The success of the Indian RNTCP was shared, in particular, the rapid progress made by India in scaling up Programmatic Management of drug resistant TB. It was emphasized that in India, all MDR patients under RNTCP are getting free treatment and there is no waiting list. It was also stated that absolute numbers have to be viewed against total population and that prevalence of TB in India has been brought down under RNTCP, which is documented by WHO Reports.

The activists did not dispute the assertions and information shared by the Indian delegate.