

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:166  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS  
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

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

- (a) whether cases of Extensively Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB) have been detected in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle this disease?

**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. 166 FOR 15TH JULY, 2009

(a) Yes.

(b)to(d): There are isolated reports of such cases from tertiary care Institutes. However, the exact magnitude of the problem is still to be determined as these reports are based on non-representative samples.

A study conducted by TB Research Centre (TRC), Chennai (between 2000 and 2005), published in 2007 in a recognized scientific journal, showed one case of Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB in 66 Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) cases. This translates to 1.5% Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB cases in Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) patients.

Further, to estimate the prevalence of Multi and Extensive Drug Resistant TB, the Ministry conducted Drug Resistance surveys in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Results from surveys indicate that the prevalence of Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB among new cases is less than 3%. To obtain a representative estimate of the Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB in these states, the isolates of identified multi drug resistant cases from the drug resistant surveys were tested at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai. Unpublished results show that there is no Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB amongst new cases, and it is less than 0.5% amongst re-treatment cases.

Drug resistant TB [including Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR)] can be prevented by early detection and good quality treatment strategy namely Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS), and this is successfully being implemented in the country. Simultaneously, this Ministry has initiated Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) Plus services for the diagnosis and treatment of Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB so that the emergence of Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) –TB may be prevented.