

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5278
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2015
TB AMONG HIV INFECTED PEOPLE
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the study by an international NGO, Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) about the infection of drug-resistance TB (DR- TB) to HIV infected people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per the study there is a need to promptly diagnose drug resistance among all HIV-infected people as they are the; most vulnerable and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey in this regard, if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for identification and treatment of HIV/AIDS patients infected with DR-TB and prevention of other HIV-infected people from DR-TB?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (e): As per the website of Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF), there are several studies and reports on drug- resistant TB, many of which are related to persons living with HIV and AIDS, from various countries, and can be accessed from the website www.msf.org.

Some of these are listed below:

1. Alarming Levels of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in HIV-Infected Patients in Metropolitan Mumbai, India
2. Infection control in households of drug-resistant tuberculosis patients co-infected with HIV in Mumbai, India
3. Outcomes in Adolescents Undergoing Treatment for Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Cape Town, South Africa, 2008-2013
4. Scaling up diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis in Khayelitsha, South Africa

These studies, inter alia, have stated that the prevalence of TB, including drug resistant TB, is high among persons living with HIV and AIDS.

The need for early and correct diagnosis of drug resistant TB among HIV infected people is well recognized by the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, where in TB/HIV collaborative activities are being implemented throughout the country and HIV infected persons are linked to TB diagnosis and treatment services. Under Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT), early diagnosis and treatment of Drug Resistant TB is available free of cost across the country. Further, all HIV-TB co-infected patients are offered diagnosis and treatment of drug resistant TB. The Government has recently launched a project at 30 ART centres, called "Innovative intensified TB case finding and appropriate treatment at high burden ART centers in India", under which rapid molecular test to diagnose drug sensitive TB and drug resistant TB is being undertaken for the TB suspects among persons living with HIV and AIDS.