

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2113
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014
FUNDING FOR TB RESEARCH
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the study conducted by the World Health Organisation (WHO), private sector funding to fight TB and research in this field is floundering including in India;
- (b) if so, the total amount being spent by the Government and private sector in the country on research on TB;
- (c) the main reasons for decline in research work on TB;
- (d) whether pharmaceutical companies are reportedly not paying due attention on research on drugs on TB and Malaria as these diseases are mostly prevalent in people from middle and lower income group; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to encourage the pharmaceutical companies to take on new projects on TB research and also increase Government's spending for the same?

Answer

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

(a): Report on Tuberculosis Research Funding Trends, 2005–2013 published in 2014 by Treatment Action Group (TAG), an activist organization, shows annual Research and Development (R&D) spending by pharmaceutical companies for TB of \$99.6 million by this sector in 2013 has fallen below the \$99.9 million industry spent on TB research in 2009.

(b): As per information received from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the budgetary allocation on TB research has gone up in the last three years, from Rs 3837 lakh in 2011-12 to Rs 4571 lakh in 2012-13 to Rs 5103 lakh in year 2013-14 for National Institute for Research on Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai.

Similarly, budgetary releases by RNTCP for Operational Research has gone up from Rs. 43.32 lakh in 2011-12 to Rs. 63.80 lakh in 2012-13 to Rs. 215.82 lakh in the year 2013-14.

Information regarding Private Sector spending on TB research is not available with The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP).

(c): As per ICMR, Research work on TB by the government has not declined in India. In addition to the two ICMR disease specific research institutes, NIRT, Chennai and National JALMA Institute for Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases (NJIL&OMD), Agra, ICMR's six permanent Regional Medical Research Centers (RMRC's) have also started supporting Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) in Drug susceptibility testing (DST) activities and are actively involved in TB research.

(d): No specific data is available on this issue.

(e): ICMR, Department of Biotechnology and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have taken a Joint initiative for commercialization of simple, affordable indigenous Indian technologies for diagnosis of TB and MDR-TB by encouraging the Private companies to develop new TB diagnostic kits. The aim of this initiative is to promote a connect between the Government, academic institutions and industry as public private partners.

A National Research Committee is constituted to provide technical assistance on Operational Research to RNTCP. RNTCP encourages the public and private sector to submit their Research Proposals on TB for funding by the Government.