

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2237

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014

ANTI TUBERCULOSIS DRUGS

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a comprehensive survey/study on tuberculosis and anti-tuberculosis drugs in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the efficacy, quality and standards of anti tuberculosis drugs in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) has initiated a national anti- tuberculosis drug resistance survey, with financial and technical support from World Health Organization, in a representative sample of 5214 patients comprising newly diagnosed sputum smear-positive pulmonary TB cases and previously treated sputum smear-positive pulmonary TB cases. This survey is the first national level survey for TB drug resistance in India. As part of the survey, the samples are subjected to susceptibility testing for 13 anti-TB drugs (5 first line drugs and 8 second line drugs).

By October 2014, 527 patients have been registered under the survey.

(c): Procurement of anti-TB drugs under RNTCP is undertaken on the basis of technical specifications formulated to ensure quality and efficacy of the drugs. In addition, pre and post-dispatch testing of the drugs is also undertaken.