GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2652
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025

ANTI-FUNGAL MEDICINES

2652 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the WHO warning of health crisis due to small pool of anti-fungal medicines in the country;
(b) if so, the steps taken / being taken in this regard;
(c) whether India, at present, is lacking in terms of number of laboratories for anti-fungal testing; and
(d) if so, the steps taken / being taken in this regard?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)

(a) to (d): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) is aware of WHO's global reports highlighting gaps in diagnostics and treatment for invasive fungal diseases, driven by limited access to tools, limited antifungal medicines, and slow Research & Development. However, these are general global observations and not specific to India.

MoHFW has taken significant steps to prioritize research on fungal infections. In response to WHO recommendations, Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), MoHFW established the countrywide Mycology Network (MycoNet) in 2020, aiming to map invasive fungal infections (IFIs) across India and assess its impact, particularly, on overall mortality and morbidity. Under the MycoNet program, eight (08) Advanced Mycology diagnostic and Research centers (AMDRCs) have been developed phase-wise, covering different zones (North, West, Central, South, East, and Northeast zones) across India. Additionally, MycoNet has developed a fungal mapping system (digital database) and generated antifungal susceptibility testing (AFST) data to monitor fungal pathogens and their resistance patterns from hospitals and ICUs. The ICMR MycoNet program has been actively monitoring antifungal drug resistance by collecting data on critical fungal pathogens like Candida, Cryptococcus, Pneumocystis and Aspergillus.

ICMR has also established the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN) in 2013 to monitor resistance trends in bacteria and fungi of clinical importance across 20 tertiary hospitals.

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