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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1866
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2025

COMBATING AMR WITH PATHOGEN TESTING FRAMEWORK

1866. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICMR is designing a new priority-pathogen testing framework intended to standardise detection and diagnosis of infection related to Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the timeline for nationwide rollout of this framework; and

(c) the budgetary allocation and human-resource strengthening planned for this initiative, especially for training microbiology/diagnostic lab personnel and equipping labs in rural and semi-urban regions?

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

(a) to (c): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that it established the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN) in 2013 to assess the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) burden in India and generate evidence for action. The network systematically collects and monitors resistance trends in clinically important bacteria and fungi, publishing annual reports. Over time, these data have identified a subset of highly drug-resistant, difficult-to-treat pathogens. Based on laboratory evidence and expert inputs from clinicians, infectious disease specialists, and clinical microbiologists, these difficult to treat drug resistant pathogens were classified into three groups-Group I pathogens (resistant to last-resort antibiotics including carbapenems) requiring aggressive action, Group II pathogens (multi-drug resistant) requiring sustained action, and Group III pathogens (drug resistant bacteria that are responsible for only a small number of infections but need to be carefully watched in future).

ICMR's AMR surveillance activities have recently been expanded to district and secondary-level hospitals. Capacity-building initiatives, including trainings and workshops, have also been undertaken to strengthen antimicrobial susceptibility testing and reporting.

Further, ICMR is actively engaged in the development of In-Vitro Diagnostic (IVD) kits for the

detection of drug-resistant Salmonella enterica infections. As part of this initiative, a comprehensive Target Product Profile (TPP) has been developed to guide the design, performance requirements, and validation standards for these diagnostics.

In addition, ICMR has also developed a comprehensive standard protocol for validation of indigenous diagnostics for pathogen identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing to help developers generate data on test that can help in speedy regulatory approvals.

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