

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2767
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2018

MISUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN POULTRY FARMS

**2767 SHRI G. HARI
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that rampant misuse of antibiotics in poultry farms is leading to large scale antibiotic resistance because of unsafe disposal of poultry litter and waste in agricultural land, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is true that a study has found that misuse of antibiotics in animals and birds is leading to proliferation of multidrug resistance bacteria which has a potential to infect human beings;
- (c) if so, whether it is true that anti-microbial resistance threatens effective prevention and treatment of an ever increasing range of infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, urinary tract infection and HIV etc;
- (d) whether it is also true that in the country an additional two million lives can be lost by 2050 due to drug resistance, if so the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to fix some strict norms in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) No systematic data is available presently on the subject. As per information provided by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), isolated study reports by non-governmental organizations especially on poultry, reported antibiotic resistant bacteria developed over time and/ or the antibiotic resistance determinants which could probably pose serious implications to public health. However, the use of poultry litter and waste in agriculture land is not only the main cause of antibiotic resistance.

(b) and (c) Antibiotics in animals are used for therapeutic treatment only, whenever, required. As per information provided by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, there are many global studies which show that the misuse of antibiotics in animals and birds, especially poultry, is leading to proliferation of multidrug resistance bacteria which has a potential to infect human beings. Many studies have shown that antimicrobial resistance threatens effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, urinary tract infection and HIV etc.

(d) The ICAR and NCDC have informed that a review by Jim O'Neill and colleagues on 'Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Tackling a Crisis for the Health and Wealth of Nations', have estimated that unless effective action is taken, drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis (TB), malaria, HIV and certain bacterial infections could by 2050 claim 10 million lives each year globally. However there is no such data available pertaining to India.

(e) Antimicrobial resistance is a dynamic phenomenon. For the effective cure of animal disease conditions based on the antibiotic sensitivity pattern, use of antibiotics in animals is necessary. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has issued advisories to all State/UTs for judicious use of antibiotics in treatment of food producing animals, for stopping the use of antibiotics in animal feed and for general awareness. As per the Global Action Plan on Tackling AMR, India has also developed National Action Plan on AMR in April 2017, under which Animal Husbandry is also participating.