

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1940
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2018**

SUPERBUGS

1940. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that superbugs kill more in India than globally and the mortality rate is 13 percent owing to drugresistant bacteria;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to contain deaths due to superbugs and create awareness among the public?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

- (a) & (b): Antibiotic resistant bacteria are found globally including in India. It is also a fact that antibiotic resistant bacteria do account for higher morbidity as well as mortality. We do not have any country data to substantiate that these pathogens account for 13% mortality.
- (c): Government of India has given due cognizance to the problem of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and to tackle this issue, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has initiated various activities towards AMR containment as under:-
 - i. National Programme on Containment of AMR was initiated during the 12th Five year plan and is being coordinated by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Under the programme, AMR surveillance is being conducted by NCDC through a network of 20 state medical college laboratories in 18 States. The network is being expanded across the country in a phased manner.
 - ii. Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR) is coordinating another AMR surveillance network of 20 laboratories located in tertiary care centres (both public and private) in the country.
 - iii. Strengthening Infection prevention and control: Surveillance of Healthcare associated infections (HAIs) is being conducted under the AIIMS-ICMR-NCDC network.

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- iv. Interim National Infection Prevention control (IPC) guidelines have been drafted by NCDC and disseminated for use by Health care facilities and are also uploaded on the NCDC website. The updated National IPC guidelines are in process of finalisation and will be made available to all health care Institutions in the country for implementation.
- v. Surveillance for Antibiotic consumption: NCDC has initiated antibiotic consumption studies in health care facilities in the country in 20 medical colleges.
- vi. Antimicrobial stewardship (AMSP) activities: In order to promote rational use of antibiotics among the health care providers, a series of sensitization and training workshops have been organized in different Health care facilities in the country for the benefit of the practicing clinicians. Standard treatment guidelines developed by NCDC for rational use of antibiotics have been made available to clinicians across the country. ICMR has recently initiated a project on strengthening AMSP in 30 sites.
- vii. Strengthening regulations: Since March 2014, a separate Schedule H-1 has been incorporated in Drug and Cosmetic Rules to regulate the sale of antimicrobials in the country. About 24 antimicrobials belonging to third/fourth generation cephalosporins and carbapenems are covered in the schedule. These antimicrobials cannot be sold without a proper medical prescription and their drug packaging requires the specific labelling along with red border.
- viii. Strengthening Regulations in Food: Food safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the prescribed tolerance limits of antibiotics in different kinds of food of animal origin.
- ix. National Action Plan for Containment of AMR (NAP-AMR) was developed by National Centre for Disease Control involving stakeholders from various ministries/ sectors and was launched by Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare on 19th April 2017. Simultaneously, a Delhi Declaration on AMR– an inter-ministerial consensus, was also signed by the Ministers of the concerned Ministries pledging their whole hearted support in AMR containment. Since health is a state subject, states are being supported to develop state action plans along the lines of NAP-AMR.

Further, to create awareness among the public about AMR several IEC activities have been coordinated by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) along with other partners to raise awareness about AMR among different stakeholders by way of organizing Public lectures, participating in live programmes on Lok Sabha TV and Doordarshan, Organizing AMR programmes in schools and colleges etc. NCDC under MoHFW is in the process of finalising the IEC material for Nationwide IEC activities to raise awareness about AMR and to prevent misuse of antibiotics.

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