

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3362  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**DEATHS IN AIIMS DUE TO DRUG RESISTANT PATHOGEN**

**3362. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently a drug resistant pathogen caused deaths during treatment in AIIMS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there have been a rapid increase in the species of fungi in the environment that are known to cause diseases with some of them being even resistant to drugs and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any measures to create infrastructure for timely diagnosis and management of these kind of dangerous fungal infections on priority basis; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e) There is no evidence suggestive of death directly linked to drug resistant pathogen. Reasons for death may be multifactorial depending upon underlying condition of the patients.

AIIMS, New Delhi has a well-established Mycology Laboratory that is equipped to diagnose fungal infections and perform antifungal susceptibility testing. As fungi causing infection are present everywhere in the environment, they may cause disease in immune compromised individuals. The following remedial actions are taken by hospital authorities to prevent such occurrences:

- (i) Implementation of Hospital Disinfection & Sterilization Policy and Environment Disinfection Policy.
- (ii) Hospital Infection Control Committees that ensure adherence to guidelines.
- (iii) Regular cleaning and disinfection of all inanimate surfaces in Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Wards, Operation Theaters with disinfectants viz. sodium hypochlorite/hydrogen peroxide/alcohol (depending on the type of surface). In addition, common areas, walls, windows and stair case etc. are also cleaned periodically.

- (iv) Adequate airflow is maintained in critical areas like Operation Theatres and Intensive Care Units to help flush out fungi.
- (v) High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters are installed in all critical areas where immune compromised patients are admitted.
- (vi) All infection control protocols are followed like periodic maintenance of air conditioning ducts, walls, ceilings, water tanks, water filters etc. Further, anti-fungal paint is used in the hospital for prevention of fungal growth.
- (vii) Hand washing facilities are provided at all patient care areas. The patients are also advised to take regular bath and maintain general cleanliness.
- (viii) Frequent cleaning of wastes from the patient care areas is done regularly.
- (ix) Hospital dress and linen are regularly cleaned in order to avoid fungal carriage in aprons and hospital scrubs.
- (x) The Hospital Infection Control Team conducts surface culture, air sample culture and water sample culture from various areas like ICUs, Operation Theatres etc. for periodic monitoring of various sources of infections.
- (xi) The number of attendants/visitors for each patient is restricted.
- (xii) Training and awareness programs are also conducted for general cleanliness, waste segregation and hand hygiene etc.

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