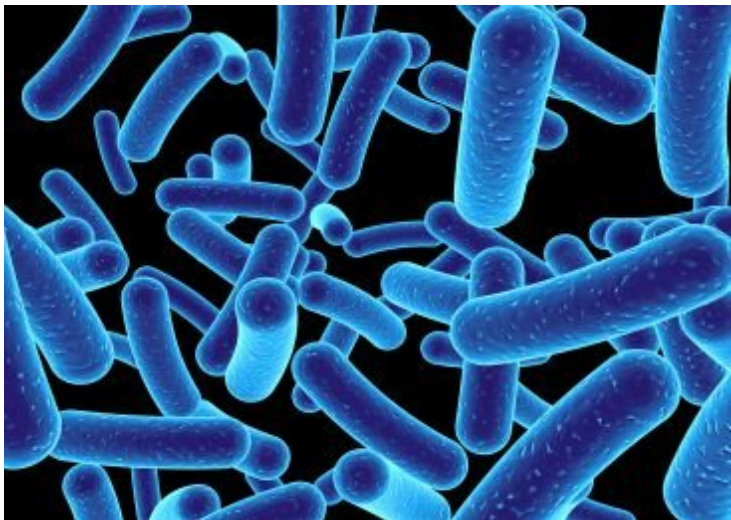


MDR-TB being tackled efficiently: Health Ministry

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MDR-TB being tackled efficiently: health ministry



The population-based Drug Resistance Survey conducted in Maharashtra in 2008 showed low multi drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) prevalence of 2.7 percent amongst new TB cases. However, according to the Union Health Ministry, presently, as a result of enhanced and sophisticated diagnostics, the number of MDR-TB cases detected and treated has increased.

As per the information given by the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Mr Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury in the parliament on March 13, 2013, "Till now 5,962 MDR-TB cases in Maharashtra have been put under treatment. Under the Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP), inter alia, enhancing access to early diagnosis and treatment of MDR-TB by scaling up of sophisticated diagnostics including rapid molecular test is being done."

"Strengthening TB control in major cities with intensified case finding efforts and strengthening the surveillance with online monitoring of TB patients (Nikshay) has been taken up. Enhancing the engagement of large unregulated private sector and strengthening the implementation of recent initiative like TB notification, commercial serology-based diagnostic test ban, and strengthening infection control practices at health care facilities and communities are part of the program," informed the Minister.