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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3352
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2026

PREVALENCE OF STAPHYLOCOCCI BACTERIA

3352. DR. SAMBIT PATRA:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the spread and prevalence of Staphylococci bacteria in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy to ensure comprehensive monitoring and reporting of environmental Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action plan undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the Government to contain the spread of environmental antimicrobial resistance in the country?

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

(a): Staphylococcus is a commonly found bacteria living harmlessly on skin of healthy human beings. Most of the time *Staphylococcus* does not cause any harm, but it can sometimes cause infections. It can also cause severe and even fatal infections particularly in healthcare settings, in high-risk patients like those on invasive devices or with weakened immune systems. Many *Staphylococcus* bacterial infections can be treated and cured with traditional antibiotics. Some strains of *Staphylococcus* are antibiotic-resistant and need to be treated with newer antibiotics.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that it has conducted hospital-based surveillance through its Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN) across 20 tertiary care hospitals in the country. AMRSN collects and analyses *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates obtained from clinical specimens and publishes annual reports on antimicrobial resistance trends. Key findings are:

- In 2024, *Staphylococcus* species accounted for 13.2% of all bacterial isolates obtained from clinical specimens under the surveillance network.
- The proportion of *Staphylococcus* isolates has declined from 18.7% in 2017 to 13.2% in 2024. Similarly, the proportion of Staphylococcus aureus isolates decreased from 12.5% in 2017 to 8.65% in 2024.
- Based on four years of surveillance across the participating hospitals, *Staphylococcus aureus* (1.1%) infection was identified in 2,533 of 228,126 admitted patients. Of these, 1,190

infections were reported among ICU patients, corresponding to 1.6% (1,190 of 73,671) of all ICU admissions.

(b) and (c): National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has informed that under the National Programme on AMR containment, it has established sentinel surveillance network for surveillance of AMR in 9 priority pathogens causing clinical infections, one of them being *Staphylococcus aureus,* the species responsible for most staphylococcal infections.

The Government has released the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) 2.0 (2025-2029) for the containment of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The Plan adopts One Health approach and includes environmental AMR surveillance as one of its strategic priorities to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance across human, animal, food, and environmental sectors.

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