

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:448
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
HIV/AIDS DRUGS AT AN AFFORDABLE COST
CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI;DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

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

- (a) whether India propose to demand at International Forum for setting up of an international drug facility to make AIDS drugs available at normal prices to the developing world;
- (b) if so, whether the World Health Organisation has been consulted; and
- (c) if so, the reaction in the WHO in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 448 FOR 18.4.2001

The United Nations General Assembly is going to meet in a Special Session from 25th to 27th June 2001 to discuss the problem of HIV/AIDS. This is for the first time that the UN General Assembly is meeting to discuss a public health problem.

Government of India intends to propose setting up of an International Drug Facility to make antiretroviral and other drugs available to developing countries to provide care and support to HIV-infected people either free of cost or at highly subsidised rates which they can afford. A similar global drug facility exists for leprosy drugs and a global facility for TB drugs is in the process of being established. Both these facilities are administered by the World Health Organisation.

The Special Session of the UN General Assembly will adopt a Resolution setting out the global agenda for control of HIV/AIDS among the member-countries.