

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4810
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
COUNSELLING TESTING CENTRES FOR HIV/AIDS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the voluntary counselling and testing centres are in existence in each district in the country for HIV/AIDS;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to extend financial support to these voluntary counselling/testing centres to seek HIV/AIDS related information and services;
- (c) if so, the number of centres to be supported; and
- (d) the details of the expenditure in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) All the districts in high prevalence States have Voluntary Counseling & Testing Centers (VCTC) facilities. Some of the districts in high prevalence States have VCTC even at sub district level. In low prevalence States, 117 districts are still in the process of establishing VCT Centers.
- (b) The financial support is provided to VCT Centers as per the NACO guidelines. (copy of guidelines for financial support to VCTC is given at Annexure-I
- (c) A total of 752 Centers are being supported by NACO. Out of these, 84 centers have been established by Intersectoral partners and rest (668) are being managed by State AIDS Control Societies.
- (d) A total expenditure of Rs. 22.45 crores has incurred on VCTC services in the country during 2004-05.
Annexure-I

Financial support for VCTC

NACO supports each VCTC, as follows:

1. Consolidated salary for one laboratory technician (contractual basis): Rs. 6,500/- per month.
 2. Consolidated salary for two counselors (@ Rs. 6,500/- per month): Rs. 13,000/-
 3. Consumables, reagents, transportation of samples to state reference laboratories Rs. 52,500/- (per annum)
 4. Charges for the test, a token of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten only) should be charged from the person undergoing the test. This fee will cover the complete set of HIV test, required i.e., 3 ELISA/Rapid tests. However, the Medical Superintendent/ Head of Institution is empowered to waive these charges as per his/her discretion. This money may be utilized for the maintenance and upkeep of the VCTC and need not be refunded to SACS.
 5. Contingency for furniture and refurbishing of VCTC Rs. 24,000/- (a one time grant)
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