

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:402

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005

FUNDS TO NGOs FOR AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMMES

Senthil Dr. Raman; Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) the details of the proposals for the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) programme, Phase-III;
- (b) the details of NGOs receiving funds from external agencies for various AIDS control programmes;
- (c) whether these NGOs are utilizing funds on projects identified by them for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that the funds allotted to NGOs are not being utilized properly;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action plan of the Government to coordinate and monitor utilization of funds by NGOs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 402 FOR 24TH AUGUST, 2005

(a) The National AIDS Control Programme - Phase III is scheduled to begin in June, 2006, and the project period is likely to be for five years. Preparatory work for the National AIDS Control Programme - Phase III has already started and a planning team has been constituted. The planning process will involve all stakeholders i.e. policy makers, experts, NGOs and community based organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies. Under the planning team, 14 working groups have been constituted for indepth discussion on important thematic areas concerning the programme. The working groups will prepare national and state level programme implementation plans for National AIDS Control Programme - Phase III.

In order to review the progress made, a Programme Steering Committee Chaired by Special Secretary and Director General, NACO, has been constituted.

(b)to(d): The World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), United States AID (USAID) etc. provide funds to National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) for implementation of National AIDS Control Programme phase-II. NACO provide grants to NGOs through the State AIDS Control Societies for undertaking Targeted Interventions addressing mainly the groups at higher risk of contracting HIV infection and to provide care & support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. However, there are certain external agencies like Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, India-Canada Collaborative HIV/AIDS Project (ICHAP), which provide funds to some NGOs directly and have their own evaluation mechanism. Since NACO is not involved in the process of granting of funds to the NGOs by these external agencies, the details are being collected & would be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Due to reasons like poor performance, funds mishandling and change of management committees etc., State AIDS Control Societies have withdrawn support from about 38 NGOs implementing various projects since 1999. Presently, 922 NGOs being funded by NACO are implementing 965 Targeted Intervention projects among High Risk Groups (HRGs) and 58 NGOs running 60 Community Care Centres (CCCs) under National AIDS Control Programme phase-II. The Funding of NGOs supported by NACO has been decentralized to the respective State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) for which detailed operational and costing guidelines have been provided to them. Based on annual action plan discussions with the States, the funds are released to respective State AIDS Control Societies for providing financial assistance to NGOs. A Computerized Management Information System and a Programme Finance Management System have been developed by the NACO to ensure regular feedback from the NGOs through their respective State AIDS Control Societies in respect of diverse parameters for evaluation. With the intensive monitoring and evaluation systems, the SACS are able to check poor performance, improper use of funds and under achievement of targets etc. On finding shortfalls, SACS withdraws the project and stops funding.