

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1144
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
AIDS EPIDEMIC
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) whether UN has warned that India is on the brink of AIDS Epidemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cheaper and more easily available drugs have led to 80% decline in AIDS deaths in India between 1997 and 2003;
- (d) if so, the details of the role of Government agencies in tackling AIDS;
- (e) the extent to which the remaining deaths can also be prevented ; and
- (f) details of the plan in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & b) UNAID report indicates that although level of HIV infection prevalence appears to have stabilized in some states (such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra), it is still increasing among the at-risk population in several other states. As a result, overall HIV prevalence continues to rise. State-wide prevalence among pregnant women is still low among the poor and densely populated northern states of UP and Bihar. But then even a small increase in HIV transmission could translate into huge numbers of people infected due to high population.

(c) to (e) GOI has initiated the free ART programme from April 2004. It is too early to comment on the decline following the availability of cheaper drugs in India. Mean survival of AIDS cases without ARV treatment is about 14 months. With regular use of ARV treatment death in the first year can be reduced upto 4 to 8% and survival will be above 90% in them who are on regular ARV treatment.

(f) At present there are 40 ART centers providing treatment to 15,735 patients.

It is planned to extend free ART services to 180,000 AIDS cases till August 2011.

Facility of management of opportunistic infection in AIDS cases are being provided at all the medical college & district hospitals. ART is also being given to the HIV infected antenatal mothers & their newborn through 375 hospitals for prevention of infection from mother to new born. States/UTs have been asked to provide facility for prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV through all of the remaining government medical colleges & district hospitals during the current year in the country.