

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1318  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005  
HIV /AIDS INFECTION  
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Armed Forces personnel are found HIV/AIDS infected;
- (b) if so, the number thereof, Force-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop this epidemic's spread?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1318 FOR 1.12.2005

It is not correct that a large number of Armed Forces personnel are found Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) infected. In fact, the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the Armed Forces is significantly lower than that in the general population. The Armed Forces Medical services have a vibrant HIV/AIDS control programme, which includes the following:

- (i) Health education of the troops and their families.
- (ii) Surveillance of High Risk Groups such as blood donors, patients of sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis patients, ante natal cases, personnel proceeding abroad in peace keeping missions and returning from there.
- (iii) Hundred percent screening of all ante natal cases.
- (iv) Hundred percent screening of all blood/blood products for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria.
- (v) Encouraging voluntary counseling and testing.
- (vi) Spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS through audio-visual means.