

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3024  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004  
AIDS/HIV AFFECTED CHILDREN  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the children affected by HIV/AIDS in India are facing discrimination as reported in the Asian Age dated August 3, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the details of medical care given to AIDS/HIV affected children;
- (d) the causes of children being affected by AIDS/HIV;
- (e) whether there is any Government policy to help the AIDS/HIV affected children;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether Human Rights Watch and other NGOs have given any suggestions to control the problem; and
- (h) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Sir, the Asian Age in its report dated 29th July, 2004, has reported that children are being turned away from schools, clinics and orphanages on account of their HIV status. It is a general observation possibly by a person contacted by the news reporter, without any specific detail of the school, clinic or orphanage, where this is happening.

The National AIDS Control Policy clearly envisages that there will be no stigma and discrimination with persons affected by HIV/AIDS. NACO is implementing a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme in all the States and UTs in the country. Information as well as services for prevention, treatment, care and support are being widely disseminated.

(c) All AIDS cases including children below 15 years of age coming to the public sector hospitals are provided following services:

1. Management of opportunistic infections at district hospitals and Sexually Transmitted Disease at STI Clinics.
2. In all Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres, both the mother and the new born babies are provided single dose of Nevirapine for prevention of HIV transmission from infected mothers to new born babies.
3. Regular Antiretroviral Therapy for children eligible for Antiretroviral Therapy attending eight identified ART centres in the public sector hospitals.

(d) In the absence of any preventive intervention, there is a likelihood of HIV transmission from HIV infected mother to children to the extent of 30%. However children can also get HIV infection by infected blood transfusion, infected needles, syringes and sexual abuse.

(e) & (f): The Government of India HIV Policy clearly indicates that HIV positive children should not be discriminated at home, in the community, at school and other social gatherings. The community Care Centres established under the programme for people living with HIV/AIDS also provide holistic care for the HIV/AIDS affected children.

The street children are identified as one of the vulnerable groups and are given priority for inclusion under Targeted Intervention Project implemented through voluntary organizations. 25 Targeted Interventions are currently providing services specially for street children in the different parts of the country.

(g) & (h): Other than above, there is no specific suggestions received by the Govt. of India from such organisation on this issue.