

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1120
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HIV/ AIDS VICTIMS
Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Jha Shri Raghunath

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to bring a draft Bill to prevent discrimination against HIV/AIDS victims in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed Bill;
- (c) the total number of youth afflicted with HIV/AIDS in the country, State-wise;
- (d) the policies and priorities of the Government particularly towards youths who are afflicted with AIDS;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes to introduce needle exchange programme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof including its objectives; and
- (g) the time by which the said programme is likely to be introduced?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) : Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to bring "HIV / AIDS Bill – 2005". The objective of the bill is:

To prohibit discrimination;

To ensure right to disclosure of information on HIV status;

Right to access for testing, treatment and counselling;

Right to safe working environment,

Promotion of strategies for reduction of risks;

Right to information and education on HIV/AIDS;

Formulation of appropriate social security scheme and

Appointment of 'Health Ombud'.

(c): 49840, person in the age group 15-29 years have been reported as AIDS cases since 1993. This accounts for 31.1% of total reported AIDS cases in the country as on October 2006. The State-wise details for the calendar year 2006 is given at Annexure.

(d): The main mode of transmission of HIV in India is through 'sexual' route. In order to check any scope of getting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV on account of unsafe sex, National AIDS Control Organisation is promoting the 'A,B,C' strategy i.e. 'Abstinence, Be Faithful and Condom use'. Besides this, there is also a focus on 'Life Skill Education' to keep youth away from drugs and unsafe behaviour practices.

The Adolescent education programme has been formulated to achieve this objective through the Department of Education under which over 93,848 Secondary and Sr. Secondary schools having 1,87,696 teachers have been trained on life skill education.

(e)to(g): Needle Exchange Programme is already a part of Targeted Interventions for Injecting Drug Users (IDU) during Phase – II of the National AIDS Control Programme. Presently 93 Targeted Interventions for IDUs are being implemented through Non-

Governmental Organisations (NGOs). As a part of the comprehensive package for harm reduction for IDUs, the services include detoxification, detoxification-cum-substitution, abscess management, needle and syringe exchange and nursing services.