

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4691

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010

AIDS PATIENTS

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

- (a) whether India stands third in terms of the number of HIV positive patients in the world and the number of such patients is likely to increase in the coming years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether as per the World Bank report, cost of treatment of AIDS patients in the country is likely to rise to 7 per cent of the total health expenditure as compared to 5 per cent at present due to the expected rise in the number of such patients;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions received from the World Bank in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide treatment to AIDS patients at lower cost and also formulate AIDS Technology Mission to control the disease in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a & b) India has an estimated 22.7 lakh persons living with HIV which is the third highest number in the World. Estimated number of HIV positive persons is gradually declining in India. National AIDS Control programme is being implemented in the country since 1992 to prevent and control through following activities:

- (i) Targeted interventions for high risk population;
- (ii) Prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections;
- (iii) Blood safety programme;
- (iv) Integrated counseling and HIV testing services;
- (v) Prevention of parent to child transmission;
- (vi) Promoting use of condoms;
- (vii) Public awareness through multi-media and
- (viii) Care, support and treatment of HIV positive persons

(c) & (d) Cost of treatment of HIV/AIDS is likely to increase due to increase in number of patients requiring treatment. In addition, there will be increase in number of patients requiring second line anti-retroviral drugs, which are 6 to 7 times more costly as compared to first line anti-retroviral drugs.

(e) & (f) The Government has already started treatment of HIV/AIDS since April 2004. At present, 269 hospitals are providing treatment in various parts of the country and more than 3 lakh patients are being treated free of cost. At present, there is no proposal to formulate AIDS Technology Mission in the country.