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Title: Need to undertake measures for prevention of AIDS in the country.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance:

The recent figures show that India has 2.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS & WHO between 2.7 and 6.8 lakh people died of AIDS last year alone and, it was only recently that National Aids Control Organisation has made a new classification. According to this classification, the disease has spread to 163 districts in 20 States which have crossed the epidemic threshold. This clearly gives us the picture of the magnitude of the problem. So, I have a few suggestions to make for consideration of the Government of India.

- (1) AIDS control should be made a part of the National Rural Health Mission.
- (2) Extensive publicity and awareness has to be given through print and electronic media with statistics which will serve as a deterrent to people.
- (3) The Health Ministry and the Railway Ministry were to start Red Ribbon Express in 2002. But, nothing has been done so far. I request the GOI to start this immediately so as to bring awareness among the People.

* Treated as Laid on the Table.

- (4) Special attention should be paid to 163 districts which have been classified as Category 'A' and 59 districts which have been classified as Category 'B' districts by NACO in the Third Phase which is going to start from 1st April, 2008.

These measures, I am sure, would have positive impact on the control of HIV/AIDS in the country.