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Title : Need to bring a legislation on the HIV/AIDS victims.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise an important issue which is really an issue of national concern.

Sir, HIV/AIDS infection is really a problem in our country. The Government has taken up many programmes particularly under the National Aids Control Programme and now some positive results have been achieved in containing the progress of this disease. But there is another problem and that is related to the social understanding. HIV/AIDS victims and their family members – their sons and daughters – are facing some sort of a social stigma in the society and even social segregation is happening in our country. Even the children of HIV/AIDS victims are not admitted in schools and they are isolated in hospitals. This sort of stigma is there and it is due to lack of proper social understanding and complete and comprehensive awareness of the disease in our country. The Government is contemplating to bring a legislation on this issue. It is a long pending demand of many social activists and other organizations that a law should be there to curb this sort of social stigma and the Government has accepted their suggestion. They have said that a comprehensive legislation would be legislated on this issue. A draft legislation is pending with the Government since 2006.

So, I urge upon the Government, through you, to bring this legislation without any further delay so that a comprehensive legislation on HIV/AIDS victims is legislated in Parliament which will have a positive impact on HIV/AIDS victims and their family members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Thokchom Meinya. Law and order is a State subject and normally it is not permitted. But please confine to one minute.