

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) As on 31-10-98 the total number of pregnant women reported by the States and UTs, infected with HIV is 989. This accounts for 1.24% of the total HIV infections reported in the country. It has increased from 0.43% in 1992 to 1.24% in October, 1998.

The main reasons for the increase in HIV infection in pregnant women is on account of increasing level of infection amongst the commercial sex workers, truck drivers, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) clinic attenders, Intravenous drug users, who in turn infect their spouses.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Soon after the first few cases of HIV infection were detected in Chennai in 1986, a National AIDS Committee was constituted to oversee the magnitude of the HIV Infection in the country and to take appropriate control measures. In the year 1987, National AIDS Control Programme was launched which focussed on awareness about HIV/AIDS, screening of blood for HIV infection and testing of individuals practicing high risk behaviours.

In 1992, the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) was established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to manage the programme activities. A five-year strategic plan for HIV/AIDS prevention and control was implemented with \$ 84 million loan from the World Bank. Programme Management, Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Social Mobilisation, Surveillance, Blood Safety and Rational use of blood, Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), Condom Promotion, Clinical Management and Care and Support are the main components of the programme.

#### i) Programme Management

Under the Programme Management at the central level, National AIDS Control Board was constituted for the expeditious implementation of the programme. At the State level Empowered Committees were constituted to achieve this end. State AIDS Cells/Societies have been set up for the proper programme management in all States/UTs.

#### ii) Information, Education & Communication

For the effective Information, Education and Communication and Social Mobilisation, multi-

media strategy plan was adopted in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, School AIDS Education Programmes have been initiated by different States. There is involvement of Non-Government Organisations in area specific targeted interventions.

#### iii) Blood Safety

In order to achieve Blood Safety and Rational use of blood, 815 blood banks in public and voluntary sectors have been strengthened. There is complete ban on professional blood donation w.e.f. 1.1.98. Efforts are being made to promote voluntary blood donation by organising public awareness programmes.

#### iv) Control of STDs

Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases is one of the thrust areas of the programme because there is close association between these diseases and HIV/AIDS. In all, 504 STD clinics functioning at district, sub district level hospitals have been strengthened which includes training of medical officers and laboratory technicians in diagnosis and management of STDs as well. Besides all the district women hospitals have been strengthened for the management of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Promotion of quality condom for STD prevention is another important aspect and as such it is made available at these centres.

#### v) Care & Support

For the clinical management of HIV/AIDS related illnesses, physicians have been trained and allocations of budget has been made accordingly to all States/UTs for the treatment of opportunistic infections. States with high incidences of HIV/AIDS have been advocated to establish Hospices for the comprehensive care and support of terminally ill destitute cases.

[Translation]

### Official Language

\*31. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States and the number of High Courts whose official language was Hindi before adopting Devnagri script of Hindi as official language

till 14th September, 1948 and whose official language was made English after 15th September, 1948;

(b) whether permanent restrictions have been imposed on the use of Hindi in public sector;

(c) whether the Secretary level officers have been given the liberty to use English for an unlimited period; and

(d) whether the language of the Supreme Court is only English?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Constituent Assembly of India had accorded its consent on 14th September, 1949 to the provisions relating to Language and Official Language in the constitution of India. The information in regard to the arrangements and provisions for Official Language in the States and High Courts on 14th September, 1948 or prior to 14th September, 1949, is not available.

When the Constitution of India came into effect on 26th January, 1950 the Official Languages of the States of India remained effected by article 345 of Constitution of India. According to the article 343 of the constitution, Hindi in Devnagari script was accepted as Official Language of the Union.

At the time when Constitution of India came into being there were total 28 states and 18 High Courts in the country. As per information given in the Official Language Commission's Report of July, 1956, 5 states viz, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Central India and Rajasthan had adopted Hindi and 2 states namely Jammu & Kashmir and Sourashtra had adopted their regional languages as Official Languages. In the remaining states, at the higher level of administration English continued to be used. According to the same report Hindi and Regional Languages were being used only for proceedings in the then 3 High Courts viz. Central India, Pepsu and Rajasthan and in 2 High Court viz. Hyderabad and Travancore-Cochin respectively. In the High Courts of the remaining states entire work was being done in English only.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) According to the article 348 (1) of the Constitution, English is the language of Supreme Court of India.

[English]

#### Hike in Import Duty on Sugar

\*32. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI K. S. RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar industry has urged the Union Government to hike the import duty on sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two apex organisations of the Sugar Industry viz. Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) have submitted representation to the Government stating, inter alia, that there is a large inflow of imported sugar, and a steep fall in the international prices of sugar and demanding an increase in the import duty on sugar to 40% from the present 5%.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

#### Seizure of Stock of Edible Oil

\*33. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered in connection with dropsy epidemic and the quantity of adulterated edible oil seized in various States.

(b) the manner in which adulterated oil was utilized.

(c) whether the sale and import of mustard oil has been banned to check the spread of such disease;

(d) whether due to shortage of mustard oil and other edible oils there is a sharp rise in prices after dropsy epidemic;

(e) whether the Government have withdrawn the control order which was in force for prevention of adulteration in edible oil;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the steps taken by the Government to regulate