

Prevention of AIDS

1941. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that eunuchs, prostitutes, disposal syringes and professional blood donors are the main source of AIDS; and

(b) if so, what preventive steps have been taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Available information from developed countries indicates sexual promiscuity—home, hetero or bisexual—is the major factor associated with AIDS infection. There is as yet no information regarding AIDS infection among eunuchs in India. Use of sterile disposable needles will prevent transmission of AIDS virus through contaminated needles. Transfusion with infected blood or blood products has also been identified as a source of AIDS infection in recipients.

(b) A nation-wide control programme has been initiated and the important steps under this programme taken so far for the prevention of the disease are :—

1. restrictions have been imposed on import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate.
2. All the State Health Authorities/hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS.
3. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.
4. All the State health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

5. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

6. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

Moral Education in Model Schools

1942. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce moral education as one of the subjects in model schools as a first step to improve the moral standards of our youngsters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). The growing concern over the erosion of essential values and an increasing cynicism in society has brought to focus the need for readjustments in the curriculum in order to make education a forceful tool for the cultivation of social and moral values.

Under the National Policy on Education—1986 (Para 8.5 and 8.6) which will also be applicable to the Navodaya Vidyalayas, special emphasis has been laid on education to foster universal and eternal values, oriented towards the unity and integration of our people. Such value education would help eliminate obscurantism, religious fanaticism, violence, superstition and fatalism. Apart from this combative role, value education will have a profound positive content, based on our heritage, national goals, universal perceptions. The education programmes will be carried on in strict conformity with secular values. In Navodaya Vidyalayas emphasis would be laid on this aspect in teaching programmes and co-curricular activities cutting across different subject areas.