

not destroy it. My fervent appeal to you is "Do not demoralise the people of this nation. We have lot of responsibilities. This is not the way, to come to the well of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know. Look here. Have I denied? Please discipline your Member. Have I rejected anybody's motion? You have no patience even to know what is the position of your motions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are the leader of this country. You are the custodian of the sanctity of this House. The whole country has so much of faith on us. Please behave yourselves. This is my appeal.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me quote about your notice now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know. First, I have four notice on adjournment motions, one by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and one by Shri G. Venkat Swamy.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will come to that. One by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, one from Shri Pramod Mahajan, one from Shri George Fernandes, one by Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy and one by Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar. There was another notice under Rule 184 tabled by Shri Sharad Pawar on the situation arising out of police firing in Maharashtra relating to the Dalit issue. We discussed the issue threadbare in the meeting of the leaders of political parties. Everybody unanimously agreed that these issues are important and they should be discussed in Parliament. In what way it should be done should be left to the Speaker to decide. But it must be discussed. Both the issues must be discussed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. When I am on my legs, you cannot stand. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot take everybody's name. I have your notice also. Yes. Shri G.M. Banatwalla, you have also given a notice on Maharashtra. I know.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are many notices. How can I take all these names now?

12.00 hrs.

I am just saying that his notice has been received first. It has been followed by many Members who have served notices.

The Home Minister came to see me for some other reason. I took the opportunity of discussing this issue with him. I am not bound to tell you what we have discussed. But I have consulted the Home Minister on two issues. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, who is the Leader of the House, came to my Chamber. We had a discussion. After the meeting with the leaders of political parties, I had discussed it with him. Therefore, things have been moving. If only one of you, one of the leaders stood up and asked what is the position, then things would have been much better. But you have no patience even to hear, even to find out things.

Let me tell you one thing. I have given consideration to both the Motions and I have decided to admit the Adjournment Motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Motion tabled by Shri Sharad Pawar under Rule 184. I have already admitted both the Motions. When it will be discussed will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee. A meeting will take place tomorrow. Therefore, in any case, it cannot be taken up today. But both the Motions have been admitted.

(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Abolition of Child Labour

*1. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sent any communique to the Chief Ministers of all the States where the child labour is prevalent emphasising the need for maintaining regular dialogue for monitoring the progress regarding abolition of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State-Governments thereon and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure abolition of this social evil;

(d) whether the Government have received any time bound programme from the State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the child labour is likely to be abolished in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Government has taken a series of steps for the rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Part A and B of the Schedule to the Act. There are also provisions in various other labour laws such as Factories Act, Mines Act, Plantation Labour

Act, Motor Transport Workers Act, Shops & Commercial Establishments Acts etc. to deal with age of entry to employment. Apart from legal measures, Government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of Child labour working in hazardous occupations. A major programme was announced in August 1994 for the rehabilitation of around 2 million children working in hazardous occupations through a project approach. So far 76 National Child Labour Projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools set up under the projects.

2. The Supreme Court of India has in their judgement dated 10.12.96 given certain directions regarding the manner in which children working in hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. As a follow up of the directions of the Supreme Court, detailed guidelines have been sent to all the State Governments indicating the manner in which the directions of the Supreme Court would be given effect to. The various directions of the Supreme Court are required to be implemented in a time bound manner. The progress in the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupation as also the directives of the Supreme Court are being monitored through regular interaction with the State Governments in various fora. Communications have been sent to the State Governments, from time to time, emphasising the need for effective implementation and regular monitoring of progress of abolition of child labour.

3. Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) announced by the Government seeks complete abolition of child labour. A beginning has been made by the Government, during the last two years or so, for withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. The Government, however, has not finalised any time frame for complete abolition of child labour in the country.

AIDS/HIV

*2. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of AIDS and HIV positive patients has been increasing continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the number of AIDS and HIV positive patients detected separately during 1997 till date as compared to 1996, State-wise;

(c) the reasons why the AIDS and HIV patients are increasing;

(d) the arrangements made by the Government to identify AIDS and HIV infected people;

(e) whether some international agencies including WHO and UNFPA have also warned India to take suitable steps to control spreading of AIDS and HIV;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of action plan formulated or proposed to be formulated to control the spread of these diseases and create awareness amongst the people about these diseases particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to g) To slow down the spread of HIV/AIDS, the "National AIDS Control Programme" was started in 1987. But the Programme was launched in a comprehensive manner all over the country only in 1992 with the World Bank credit of US\$ 84 million. A five year strategic plan is being implemented with the objective of prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country so as to reduce the future morbidity, mortality and the impact of HIV/AIDS. The various components of this action plan are:

1. Strengthening the Programme Management capacity at National and State level:

At the national level, National AIDS Control Organisation under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been created and is in operation. At the State/UT level, a State AIDS Cell has been created. Empowered Committees have been constituted in majority of States/UTs. Some States like Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Pondicherry have created Registered Societies exclusively for the implementation of this Programme.

2. Surveillance and Clinical Management

For surveillance of HIV infection, HIV testing facilities exist in 62 Surveillance Centres all over the country. These Centres are the designated laboratories in the Departments of Microbiology in Medical Colleges, Research Institutions and big hospitals, which carry out HIV testing of blood samples received from various departments of the attached hospitals on unlinked anonymous basis. The blood samples are mostly from the high risk groups of individuals. These surveillance centres have been established with the aim of monitoring the geographical distribution and the source of HIV infection.

The sentinel surveillance system had been adopted to monitor the trend of HIV infection among various high risk groups of population like Sexually Transmitted Disease, Clinic attenders and intravenous drug users as well as section of population like ante-natal mothers. This is being carried out through 55 Sentinel sites attached to these surveillance centres in various parts of the Country.

As per information available with National AIDS Control Organisation, the number of HIV infection and AIDS cases during 1996 and 1997 are as follows: