

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1653
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
CONFERENCE ON HIV/AIDS HELD IN DURBAN
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `India may soon have half the World's AIDS patients` appearing in the `Hindustan Times` dated July 13, 2000;
- (b) whether a Conference on HIV/AIDS was held in Durban recently;
- (c) whether one fifth of the India's population nearly 200 million affected by HIV virus and about 100 million are affected by AIDS as approved by experts in the Conference;
- (d) if so, the main issues discussed and the outcome thereof;
- (e) the remedial measures suggested in the Conference; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Yes, Sir. The 13th World AIDS Conference was held in Durban from 9-14 July, 2000.
- (c) No Sir. As per the 1999 HIV sentinel surveillance data the estimated number of HIV infections in the adult population in the country ranges from 2.4 to 3.7 million as in mid 1999.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The main theme of the conference was `Break the Silence` which focused on obstacles to global efforts to turn the tide of the HIV epidemic. These include complacency, ignorance and denial which are still common in many countries, inequities in access to care, tardiness in the development of HIV vaccines and vaginal microbicides, lack of commitment in providing resources for research, education and public health interventions.
- (f) The Government of India has implemented a National AIDS Control Programme since 1992 for a comprehensive programme for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country.