

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:44
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
INSTANT AIDS TEST
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;N.T. SHANMUGAM

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the News-item captioned `Instant Aids Tests in Kerala for Rs.10.00` which appeared in the `Hindustan Times` on September 2, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its objectives; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make such schemes widely available/acceptable in other States also?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR.C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 44 FOR 21.11.2001.

Government of India has decided to introduce rapid HIV test kits for diagnosis of HIV infection in Voluntary counseling and Testing Centres in all the districts in the country in a phased manner. The advantage of rapid HIV test kits is that they require less than 30 minutes to perform and do not require special equipment. The result can be given to the individual on the same day after pre and post test counseling. The validity of these rapid HIV test kits have been technically evaluated in the country and has been found comparable with that of the other kind of the test kits known as Enzyme Linked Immunoborbenent Assay (ELISA)A sum of Rs.10.00 per complete test is charged from the individuals who are offered such test.