

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4822
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2000
RAILWAY STAFF SUFFERING FROM AIDS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the nearly 1800 railway employees are suffering from AIDS with HIV positive symptoms;
- (b) If so, the main reasons for increasing AIDS in the railway staff;
- (c) whether any concrete steps have been worked out by the Railways in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the provisions being made to help the employees ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

- (a) No Sir, as on date there are 1906 HIV positive persons among nearly one crore population of Railway employees and their dependents in the country. Presently, there are 190 cases having signs and symptoms of T.B. and other infections.
- (b) Question does not arise. The present HIV positivity rate among Railway population is much below the estimated national level.
- (c) Steps for prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS are already under implementation in the Railways.
- (d) and (e) As per the existing technology and know how, prevention is the main stay in the control of AIDS. The prevention is done through Health Education by (i) improving awareness about HIV and AIDS in the population regarding modes of transmission of the disease and safe sex practices. (ii) supply of condoms (iii) mandatory testing of blood and blood products (iv) safety in hospitals and medical care facilities in administration of blood and blood products (v) training of medical and para medical personnel (vi) safety of medical and para medical staff and proper disposal of hospital wastes (vii) counselling centres to counsel about HIV/AIDS.