

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:202

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000

UNICEF REPORT ON AIDS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAYIA

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

- (a) whether India has been shown as the most AIDS infected country in the world as per the UNICEF report released recently in regard to the progress made by various nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of AIDS patients in India at present and the States which are leading the figure alongwith the percentage of Indian population infected of AIDS as per the UNICEF report;
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check this deadly disease?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 202 for answer on 7th August 2000

The UNICEF report 'Progress of Nations 2000' carries data briefs on HIV/AIDS in African and Asian countries. As per the report India has the second largest number of HIV- infected people in the world. The report also contains prevalence rates of the infection among young people, male and female, in the age group of 15-24 years. In the original report, the rates mentioned are 0.6 per cent among women and 0.4 per cent among men. In a corrigendum the report alters the percentage as 0.4 for women and 0.6 for men. The report mentions the source of the data as the UNAIDS Report for 2000.

2. The UNAIDS report on the global HIV epidemic released in June 2000 carries data on HIV/AIDS of end-1999. It has separate estimates for adults and children living with HIV/AIDS putting the range as 21 lakhs to 43 lakhs. The report also contains estimates of HIV prevalence rates in young people, male and female, and the range given is 0.14 % to 0.58% in case of males and 0.40 to 0.82% in case of females. The mean value works out to approximately 0.36% for males and 0.61% for females which agrees with the original HIV prevalence rate reported by UNICEF. But for some unexplained reason the UNICEF report contains a corrigendum which alters this figure between male and female. No explanation has been given for such ad hoc alteration of rates between male and female.

3. While HIV prevalence rates have been estimated on the basis of annual sentinel survey conducted by National AIDS Control Organisation for the age group of 15-49, no separate estimate of HIV prevalence is available specifically for the age group of 15-24 years. It is therefore not clear how the UNAIDS and UNICEF have arrived at the prevalence rates among young people of the age group of 15-24 and published the data in their annual reports. Government therefore cannot accept these figures of HIV prevalence rates among young people of the age group of 15- 24 as authentic as they are not based upon actual observation in the field through sentinel surveillance system.

4. Govt. of India's estimates on HIV/AIDS are based upon annual sentinel survey conducted by NACO through 180 sentinel sites located all over the country. NACO's sentinel data has been obtained in annual surveys in October 1998 and October 1999. The next round of survey is on from August to October 2000.

5. Based on the sentinel survey done in 1998, Govt. of India has estimated that India would have around 3.5 million HIV infections in the country. The States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Manipur have the highest prevalence rates of HIV infections in the country. State-wise estimated HIV infection as per the sentinel survey done in 1998 are given at Annexure I.

6. The second phase of the National AIDS Control Programme which was launched in November 1999 has scaled up the activities on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country four-fold in terms of financial outlay compared to the first phase (1992-1999). An amount of Rs. 1425.00 crores was approved by the Union Cabinet for the second phase of NACP.

7. The programme adopts the following strategy for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and for creating an enabling environment for people who are already infected with HIV/AIDS.

i. Reduction of the spread of HIV in poor and socially marginalised population who are at high risk of infection by treatment of sexually

transmitted diseases, condom promotion and targetted awareness and counseling programmes.

ii. Generation of awareness by information, education and communication among the general population through (a) family health awareness campaigns conducted periodically in villages and urban slums, (b) school and college education programmes, (c) safe blood transfusion services, (d) promotion of voluntary testing and counseling,

iii. care and support of people who are infected with HIV/AIDS by providing financial assistance for treatment of opportunistic infections in Govt. hospitals and dispensaries, opening of community care centres run by NGOs for people living with HIV/AIDS,

iv. decentralisation of the programme to State and district levels by formation of State AIDS Control Societies and strengthening and upgradation of delivery system at State, District and municipal levels with provision of adequate technical and financial support; and

v. enlisting participation of and development of ownership among other sectors like Central Govt. Undertakings and agencies, private sector and voluntary sector.

ANNEXURE-I

Estimated HIV infections as on mid 1998

Serial Number	State/UT	No of infections among urban males	No of infections among rural males	No of infections among IDUs	No of infections among urban females	No of infections among rural females	Total HIV
1	Maharashtra	350.123	272.689	80.360	43,878		747.050
2	Karnataka	134.665	107.517	44.469	23.122		309.773
3	Andhra Pr.	234.395	189.507	94,825	48.351		567.078
4	Tamil Nadu	137.668	111.248	40.215	18.863		307.994
5	Manipur	1.702	1.358	0.644	0.374	34.500	38.578
6	Goa	4.433	3.578	0.972	0.456		9.439
7	Delhi	13.504	5.605	0.231	0.072		19.412
8	Himachal Pr	0.942	0.471	1.306	0.600		3.319
9	Gujrat	44.322	20.746	12.186	4.620		81.874
10	West Bengal	60.060	27.542	20.638	8.841		117.081
11	Nagaland	1,310	0.582	1.062	0.310	1.560	4.824
12	Mizoram	0.973	0.450	0.158	0.063		1.644
13	Pondicherry	2.122	1.047	0.197	0.065		3.431
14	Andaman & Nic	0.342	0.094	0.127	0.032		0.595
15	Arunachal Pr	0.415	0.118	0.390	0.097		1.020
16	Assam	10.725	3.303	11.941	3.184		29.153
17	Chandigarh	3.330	0.879	0.064	0.012		4.285
18	Daman & Diu	0.051	0.016	0.010	0.002		0.079
19	Haryana	18.691	5.443	8.145	2.008		34,287
20	Kerala	92.427	32.028	34.156	10.729		169.340
21	Madhya Pr.	71.354	22.138	35.484	8.839		137.815
22	Meghalaya	0.350	0.110	0.261	0.059		0.780
23	Orissa	17.867	5.783	16.623	4.503		44.776
24	Punjab	25.665	7.591	8.296	2.182		43.734
25	Rajasthan	24.444	7.416	15.575	3.035		50.470
26	Sikkim	0.040	0.012	0.069	0.014		0.135
27	Tripura	1.851	0.582	1.393	0.388		4.214
28	Uttar Pradesh	53.105	15.594	32.314	7.618		108.631
29	Bihar	46.831	14.228	41.605	11.347		114.011
30	Jammu & K	7.817	2.407	3.437	0.926		14.587
31	Dadar & NH	0.045	0.015	0.076	0.021		0.157
32	Lakshadweep	0.161	0.048	0.017	0.004		0.230
Total		1361.730	860.145	507.246	204.615	36.060	2969.796

Applying a variable of 20% , the estimation of HIV in India ranges from 2.3 million to 3.5 million infections as in mid 1998. However, keeping in view the fact that all the groups are not adequately represented in this exercise, an estimate of 3.5 million infections was accepted as working estimate.