

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2969

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004

SPENDING ON AIDS CAMPAIGN

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has failed to control AIDS as reported in the 'Times of India' dated July 17, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the number of HIV/AIDS cases in the country has increased in the past few years despite the campaign to check its rising trend;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken for proper implementation of the programme; and
- (e) the amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred by NACO during the last three years?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e) A statement is enclosed.

Statement referred to Lok Sabha unstarred question No.2969 to be answered on 18.08.2004

(a) to (d) No Sir, it is not correct to deduce from a press report on the CAGs Report that the national AIDS control organization has not fulfilled its mandate.

Government directs and coordinates implementation of a comprehensive national AIDS prevention and control programme as a 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme across all states and union territories in the country. The First National AIDS Control Project was implemented from 1992-1999, and the current Second National AIDS Control Project is being implemented from 1999 to 2006. Government adopted a National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy and a National Blood Policy in 2002, followed by a detailed Action Plan on Blood Safety in 2003.

The operational strategies for prevention of HIV addressing the needs of high risk groups and vulnerable populations have been installed, and as per resources available, extended and expanded over the years. Accessing the private lives of identified core groups such as sex workers, men having sex with men and injectable drug users is itself a very complex exercise.

Government has institutionalized an annual HIV sentinel surveillance that tracks the trends in progression of the HIV epidemic. The primary data for the sentinel surveillance is also utilized to estimate the numbers of HIV infections across the country. Round 2003 has estimated a fall in the rate of growth of HIV in that for every 100 new HIV infections, we have recorded 4 HIV infections less in 2003 as compared to 2002. The numbers of HIV infections increased by 6.1 lakhs from 2001 to 2002, and by 5.4 lakhs from 2002 to 2003.

The fact remains that the comprehensive programme for prevention and control of HIV put in place by government has succeeded in preventing an upsurge in the spread and prevalence of HIV. There are sign of early sero-stabilisation across some groups like ante mothers in Tamilnadu and Manipur.

Finally, the press reporter has not cared to verify the facts about revelation of HIV status. It is true that in the period referred to in the CAG report, the HIV status was not revealed to the HIV positive individual. However, this position has completely changed. The Action Plan on Blood Safety adopted in July 2003 has mandated the revelation of HIV status to the result seeking donor, and this is now being implemented in blood banks and Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centres across the country.

In other words, it is now clear that the report in the media has attempted to sensationalise the CAG report which pertained to the period 1998-99.

(e) The amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred by NACO during the last three years is as under:

(Rupees in crores)

S.No. Fiscal Year Budgetary Provisions Expenditure Incurred

BE RE

1	2001-2002	210	225	225.00
2	2002-2003	225	242	242.00
3	2003-2004	225	225	233.00
4	2004-2005	259	-	109.89
(Till July 04)				