

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2506
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
HIV AMONG SOLDIERS
Rijju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some of the soldiers in Indian Army are found HIV positive;
- (b) if so, the number of soldiers found HIV positive in the Indian Army;
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out any scheme to protect the Indian Army from HIV infection; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2506 FOR 16.12.2004

Government is aware of the existence of some HIV positive cases in the Indian Army. The incidence of HIV positive cases in the Indian Army is below 0.02 percent.

2. Government has taken several steps to protect the Indian Army from HIV infection. These steps include the following:-

- (i) Health education on prevention and control of HIV / AIDS through audio- visual and other media have been stepped up.
- (ii) Only HIV infection free blood is used for transfusion to Service personnel and their families.
- (iii) Condoms are made available freely in the units for Service personnel.
- (iv) Service personnel found sero-positive for HIV are examined frequently and preventive measures are taken against the spread of infection from such personnel.
- (v) Surveillance of High Risk Groups such as blood donors, patients of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Tuberculosis patients, Ante natal cases, personnel proceeding abroad in peace keeping missions and returning from same etc.