

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:692

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009

EFFORTS TO CURB HIV AIDS

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

- (a) the details of the efforts made by the Government in restraining the menace of HIV/AIDS during the last three years;
- (b) the details of guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in this regard; and
- (c) the details of assistance provided by the Government to various States in the field of medicinal research for curing HIV/AIDS?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

- (a) Following schemes are being implemented by the Government under NACP-III to prevent and control HIV/AIDS in the country:
- (i) Free voluntary counseling and HIV testing through 4817 Integrated Counseling and Testing Centers;
 - (ii) Targeted Interventions to cover High Risk and vulnerables population through 1309 Non- Government Organizations (NGOs)/Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
 - (iii) Treatment of sexually transmitted infections by providing free drugs in Government and selected private facilities;
 - (iv) Easy access to free/subsidized condoms through various outlets, social marketing and condom vending machines;
 - (v) Provision of safe blood by supporting blood banks and up-scaling voluntary blood donation;
 - (vi) Prevention of HIV transmission from infected pregnant women to new born by providing free Niverapine to mothers and new born babies;
 - (vii) Free investigation and treatment of eligible HIV/AIDS patients through 197 Anti- Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres and 208 Community Care Centres.
 - (viii) Public awareness through various media focusing on prevention of HIV, utilization of services and alleviating stigma and discrimination of People Leaving with HIV/AIDS.
- (b) National Operational Guidelines have been published under NACP-III for various schemes. WHO guidelines have been incorporated in national guidelines wherever applicable.
- (c) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is funding studies on medicinal research in four states namely Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh through Golden Triangle Partnership on development of medicines for curing HIV/AIDS. This multi-centric study entitled "Phase III randomized controlled open multi-centric trail" would be testing ayurvedic formulations for anti-HIV activity and efficacy. The centres participating in the study are National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali, SASTRA, Thanjavur, National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.