

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6941
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
TELEMEDICINE FOR HIV AIDS PATIENTS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched/proposed telemedicine for HIV/AIDS infected patients in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any assistance has been sought from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to control AIDS and also cases of rabies in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a)&(b) The telemedicine facility for HIV infected patients is being set up on a pilot basis in the Center of Excellence, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. The project, called Project DISHA is a joint collaboration between University of New Mexico, USA & National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Govt. of India.

The telemedicine facility will link Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres in remote areas with the Centers of Excellence (COE). The interaction between medical officers at ART centres with specialists at Centers of Excellence will promote access to better knowledge and practices that will translate into better care for the HIV patients at these ART centers.

(c)&(d) Assistance of World Health Organization (WHO) was sought and obtained in strategic planning of prevention, treatment and control measures for HIV/AIDS since the time the first case of HIV was reported in the country.

Specific technical assistance is being received for:

1. Surveillance for identifying and tracking the epidemic
2. Screening of blood for blood borne pathogens to ensure safe blood transfusion
3. Technical Assistance in expanding the counseling and testing facilities in the country
4. Technical Assistance in scaling up of Antiretroviral therapy (ART) for adult and paediatric HIV infected patients
5. Monitoring and determining, emergence and levels of HIV Drug Resistance
6. Technical Assistance in scaling up of prevention of mother to child transmission facilities
7. Establishing measures to manage HIV/TB co-infections.

Periodic training workshops on rabies are being conducted at National Centre for Disease Control as a part of WHO Biennium activity.