

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:870
ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010
MEDICINES FOR HIV/AIDS
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has proposed/ released a number of medicines for treatment of HIV/AIDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of medicines developed by the Indian companies;
- (c) whether the Government has included these medicines including those developed by the Indian companies in the National AIDS Control Programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether generic medicines developed by the Indian pharmaceutical companies for HIV/AIDS are considered inferior internationally; and
- (f) if so, the corrective measures taken/ proposed in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a): Yes. The World Health Organisation WHO has released the guidelines for Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for HIV infection in adults and adolescents – (2010 revision). The guidelines mainly describe the newer strategies with regard to the starting of treatment and the drugs needed to be used at the time of starting.

(b) to (d): WHO has recommended country adaption of these guidelines based on the context of countries HIV epidemic, the strengths and weakness of health systems, and the availability of financial, human and other essential resources.

The financial and logistic issues for implementing these guidelines are being worked out.

(e) & (f): No. The generic medicine developed by Indian pharmaceutical companies are not considered inferior internationally. Nearly 89% of the 2008 global ARV purchases are being manufactured and supplied by Indian pharmaceutical companies.