

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2279

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011

HIV INFECTED ADOLESCENTS

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

(a) whether the Government has taken note of a recent UN report titled `Opportunity in Crisis: Preventing HIV from early adolescence to young adulthood` which has ranked India at tenth position with 95,000 HIV infected adolescents alongwith the sub-Saharan countries where the highest number of youngsters are infected by the deadly virus;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the facts in this regard;

(c) the action taken so far by the Government to control the prevalence of HIV, particularly among the adolescents and the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch any campaign at various levels across the country, particularly the areas where the HIV prevalence is high; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIS. GANDHISELVAN)

(a) & (b): No. The said report has not been formally received at NACO. However, the report as available on the website has been seen at NACO. NACO conducts annual HIV Sentinel Surveillance among pregnant women and high risk groups. Data from surveillance is used to generate HIV epidemic projections and estimates of number of persons infected with HIV and HIV Prevalence. According to the recent HIV estimates based on HIV Sentinel Surveillance 2008-09, it is estimated that 2.92 lakh young people aged 15-24 years are infected with HIV in India in 2009. HIV prevalence of 0.14% is estimated among young people aged 15-24 years. A clear decline is evident in HIV prevalence among the young population (15-24 yrs) at national level, both among men and women. Stable to declining trends in HIV prevalence among the young population (15-24 yrs) are also noted in most of the states.

(c) to (e): Adolescence Education Program (AEP) is being implemented through State Education Department with technical and financial support of NACO. It is placed as a key intervention to build life skills and help adolescents cope with negative peer pressure, develop positive behavior, understand issues concerning growing up, and prevent HIV infections.

The amount spent during the last three years on the implementation of Adolescence Education program and the current year is as below:

Last three years (Amount in lakhs):

2008-09 - Rs. 571.39

2009-10 - Rs. 923.56

2010-11 - Rs. 1,144.23

Current year: 2011.12 - Rs. 172.50

NACO conducts campaign targeting youth using strategic communication tools at various levels across the country. The campaigns were conducted to reaching out to youth using mass media, mid media, out- door and IPC material on special events.