

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:434
ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011
HIV/AIDS PATIENTS
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the Government has framed certain policies and issued directives relating to the care, support and treatment of people infected with HIV/AIDS in the country;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof;
- (c) whether the above policies and directives address the issues of discrimination, stigmatization and denial of HIV/AIDS infected patients in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether cases of suicides by HIV/AIDS infected patients due to improper behavior and discrimination by the hospital authorities have come to the notice of the Government in the recent years; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective measures taken/ proposed in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 434 FOR 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2011

Government of India is implementing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), through National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) for prevention and control of HIV / AIDS in the country. The Care & Support of people infected with HIV/ AIDS was an integral component of Phase – II of National AIDS Control Programme (1999 – 2007). During the later part of Phase – II, "free Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) Programme" was initiated with effect from 1st April, 2004, initially at 8 Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) Centres in 6 high prevalent States of the country. This was further upscaled under NACP – III (2007 – 2012) and currently 313 ART Centres are functional as on June, 2011, wherein a cumulative number of 13,20,797 HIV positive persons are registered for HIV care and a total of 4, 26,195 patients are receiving free ART.

A State wise list of patients on ART is annexed.

In order to provide treatment to the HIV positive persons nearer to his/her place of residence, 641 Link ART Centres have also been established. In addition to this, a total of 259 Community Care Centres have also been established to provide care and support services to the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs).

A directive was issued by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) on 26th August, 2008, on 'comprehensive care for PLHIVs at ART Centres. This directive provides guidelines for enhancing the extent and efficacy of treatment administered to HIV positive persons. All State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) were directed to ensure that "all doctors, nurses, hospital staff shall treat HIV positive persons in a professional and humane manner with dignity and care". Further, it must be ensured that there is no 'stigma' or 'discrimination' at health care facilities or otherwise. The cases of 'denial of services' to HIV positive persons should be viewed seriously and action be initiated in all such cases. As per this directive, all States have established "State Grievance Redressal Committees" to address to various issues related to Care, Support & Treatment including stigma, discrimination and denial.

As per information obtained from SACS, no case of suicides by HIV infected patients due to improper behaviour and discrimination by hospital authorities have come to the notice of the Government in the recent years.