

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2640
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011
HOME SELF TESTING FOR HIV AIDS
Abdulrahman Shri ;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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

- (a) whether a number of home/self testing methods are available to know HIV status;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) proposes to allow home/self-testing for AIDS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

- (a) & b) Yes. There are known home/self testing methods for knowing HIV status using oral fluids/urine which detect HIV antibodies.
- (c) to (e) No. As per the National Policy, the testing for HIV for any individual needs to be preceded by pre test counselling and followed by post test counselling.

The need for counselling before and after testing is very important for

Provision of basic information on modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS so as to promote behavioral change and reduce vulnerability (both for HIV positive and negative)

Link people with other HIV prevention, care and treatment services and

Preparing the client for the implications of the test result.