

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2874
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HIV AIDS PATIENTS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Saha Shri Anup Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a large number of cases of discrimination against HIV/AIDS patients and denial of admission/medical treatment in hospitals, particularly in private sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice during the last three years alongwith the action taken thereon, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) the details of such pending cases alongwith the time by which the action is likely to be taken in these matters;
- (d) whether the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS signed by India in the United Nation`s General Assembly has been ratified;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the present status of the HIV/AIDS Bill alongwith the time it is likely to be finalised and introduced in Parliament?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(c): Yes. During the year 2011 – 12, Six such cases were reported; three from Madhya Pradesh, two from Delhi and one from Maharashtra. Necessary action was taken by the respective States in the matter. As on date, no pending cases are reported for action in this matter.

The Department of AIDS Control has developed and implemented communication campaigns for generating awareness and information on HIV/AIDS care services. It has undertaken mainstreaming trainings covering issues of stigma, discrimination and denial. By partnering with different Ministries, private sector, civil society organisations, religious organisations, media, women's organisations and People Living with HIV/AIDS networks, efforts are made to reduce stigma and discrimination to the disease.

Further, the States has constituted State Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC), headed by the Principal Health Secretary of the respective State, to address various issues related to Care, Support & Treatment including stigma, discrimination and denial. During year 2011 – 12, 35 meetings of the State Grievance Redressal Committees were held to address the complaints received if any,by the People Living with HIV/AIDS in respective States. A statement indicating number of meetings of State Grievance Redressal Committee of States held during 2011 – 12 is enclosed at Annexure – I.

(d)&(e): Government of India participated in the High Level Meeting held at United Nation's General Assembly in June 2011. The "Declaration of commitments on HIV/AIDS" was released during the meeting and agreed to by our country. The main highlights of the political declaration are enclosed at Annexure – II.

(f): The draft of the HIV/AIDS bill is under consideration. However, no firm date can be given for its introduction in Parliament.